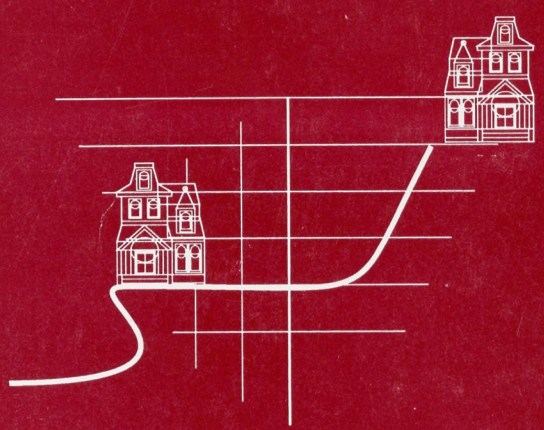
A Walk Through History: Women of Palo Alto



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To Mom

" There is a type of woman who cannot remain at home. In spite of the place her children and family fill in her life, her nature demands something more; she cannot divorce herself from the larger social life. She cannot let her children narrow her horizon. For such a woman, there is no rest."

Golda Meir

Preface

A Walk Through History: Women of Palo Alto was conceived as an effort to celebrate the lives of those remarkable women who have shaped our community in the past century. Since history often has a masculine bias, we wanted to ensure that the Centennial acknowledged these women whose influence permeates Palo Alto even today.

Neither living women nor women described solely in relation to great men are noted. Included are women who secured suffrage for all California women, educated their sisters about political participation, founded schools, healed the sick, constructed buildings, created art, represented citizens at every level of government, aided the poor and disenfranchised, improved and protected the environment, and founded civic organizations. Their contribution to Palo Alto is immeasurable.

Given the ambiguity of secondary sources such as newspapers, memoirs, and conversations and, in some cases, the paucity of information, we strove to be as historically accurate as possible. Ruth Wilson and Bob French helped greatly in correcting and clarifying historical vagaries. Their enthusiasm and respect for women in history was heartening. For purposes of consistency and in order to recognize these women as individuals, we have imposed contemporary forms of address - most notably, the use of Ms.

Residences, places of business, and buildings associated with these women are included, as is a map, in order to provide a tangible connection to the place where each admirable person lived, loved, and worked. Places of residence precede business addresses and buildings and parks associated with the subjects.

The emotional and psychological experience of writing these biographical vignettes was both

enthralling and nourishing. In composing the stories of these powerful and dedicated women, we assessed our own lives and felt a renewed commitment to the cause of equality for women.

We hope that you will enjoy the stories of our subjects as much as we enjoyed researching and writing about them. In particular, we hope that young women will find inspiration and encouragement in the lives of these Palo Alto women who paved the way.

Margaret Rodgers Feuer
Courtney Clements
Palo Alto, California
March 1, 1994

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Isabella Macdonald Alden
Author

b. November 3, 1841, Rochester, N.Y.
d. August 5, 1930, Palo Alto
Address: 425 Embarcadero Road

During eighty-nine years, Isabella Macdonald Alden wrote over one hundred twenty-five volumes in addition to innumerable articles and pamphlets. Known by her childhood pet name of "Pansy" to her international audience, Isabella Macdonald was born in Rochester, New York, the youngest of six children. Encouraged to write by her father, Pansy first published a piece in a Gloversville newspaper when she was eight years old.

Her next work was a contest-winning book of children's religious stories written when she was a seventeen year old pupil-teacher at the Oneida Seminary. From that time on, she wrote continuously. Alden continued her education and teaching at the Auburn Collegiate Institute until her marriage in 1866 to the Rev. Gustavus R. Alden, a Presbyterian minister. The Aldens made Palo Alto their home in 1907.

Alden's best-known books, translated into many languages, were the Chautauqua series, the Ester Reid series, and the Life of Christ series. Despite the loss of both her husband and son in 1924, she continued to publish until the time of her death.

At the time of Isabella Alden's writing, religious activities and literature played an influential role in communities across the nation. Striking a balance between the demands placed on a minister's wife and her desire to write, Ms. Alden drew much of her material and her desire to write from her daily experiences. "Whenever things went wrong," she explained, "I went home to make them come out right." **mrf**

Elsa Alsberg
Human Rights Advocate

b. 1880, New York
d. February 27, 1972, Palo Alto
Address: 236 Waverley Street

Elsa Alsberg was born into a lively, intellectual German-Jewish family on the upper west side of Manhattan. The only girl of four achieving children, her family pro foundly affected her approach to life. According to anthropologist and childhood friend, Alfred Kroeber the atmosphere on Seventy-Fourth Street was gay: "A visit to the Alsbergs meant a roughhouse...battles with brooms up and down the stairs, water fights in the attic, and a general piling up on top of one another...." Spontaneity and independence were encouraged and there was "an unalloyed respect...for learning and the arts; ...intellectual, public and even esthetic interests... dominated conversation and social relations."

It was taken for granted that all the children would pursue higher education and Alsberg did so, graduating from Barnard College and continuing for two years at Columbia University Graduate School in Romance Languages. She taught science and physical education for a few years but, in 1915, Elsa Alsberg found her true career and passion. At that time, she became a member of a committee that handled all the social service work for immigrants detained on Ellis Island. For the next thirty years, Ms. Alsberg worked with newly arrived Americans, becoming an authority on developing schools, literacy classes and job training programs. One of her most remarkable achievements was the co-founding of the Travelers Aid Society, a nation-wide organization aiding travelers and transients in need.

Alsberg brought her expertise to Palo Alto when she retired here and joined the Fair Play Council staff in 1949, becoming its Executive Director in 1954. The Fair Play Council had formed in 1945 to help Japanese-Americans who were displaced during the war years. By 1949, the organization took on the task of promoting civil rights, particularly in housing and education. The fourteen years of Alsberg's directorship is a history of the civil rights movement on the mid-Peninsula. The council mediated when the first African-American family moved into Belle Haven, exposed the tactics of Realtors who were creating a ghetto east of Bayshore Freeway, and helped African-American engineers find housing at a time when the law was beginning to enforce fair employment but not fair housing practices. Alsberg

pressed for employment opportunities and job training for minorities, organized community events which brought together different races and religions, and amassed a library and clipping file to aid students doing research on civil rights. Although dedicated to overcoming barriers to equality, she was never abrasive but rather sought to educate the majority community about the inequities imposed on other races. Alsberg's last project for the Fair Play Council was to draw up a model for classes in English as a Second Language in Mountain View's Adult Education Program.

More remarkable than Alsberg's organizational skill was her talent in personal counseling. In listening to clients problems, she shared more than good advice - she communicated a genuine ease, warmth, and caring for people. Elsa Alsberg possessed the unique quality of being every person's inherent equal and no one's superior. **mrf**

Queene Takoohy Amirian
Community Activist

b. circa 1909, Armenia
d. May 2, 1988, Palo Alto
Address: 553 Patricia Lane

There is often one over-riding influence in a notable person's life which focuses his or her activities. The fact that Queene Takoohy Amirian survived the 1915 slaughter of one and a half million Armenians by the Turks and came to America at the age of ten with her mother and father indelibly shaped her life. After receiving a bachelor's degree at Boston University and a Master's in International Law from American University, she moved to Palo Alto in 1950.

The opportunity to live in a country free of tyranny provided the rationale, but her innate love of people, civic-mindedness, and garrulous personality were the tools Ms. Amirian used in every effort. As president of the Palo Alto High School PTA, president of the local American Association of University Women, founding member of the Palo Alto Senior Coordinating Council, and founder and chair of the Citizens for a Cultural Center, she combined community activism with the life of a wife and mother and made both the beneficiary of her efforts. Amirian's activism was recognized with many awards: the Paul Emerson Award from CAPA, the city of Palo Alto Distinguished Service Award, the Outstanding

Civic Leaders of America Award, the Americanism Award from the DAR, the San Jose Mercury Award, and the Chamber of Commerce Tall Trees Award.

Typically modest yet understanding the important role played by volunteers, Queene Amirian insisted that "...the credit I receive should be shared by everyone who has worked with me on the arts and other committees over the years. Nothing can be accomplished by one person alone. You have to have the enthusiastic cooperation of a group of people." **mrf**

Virginia (Jennie) Catlin Arnott
Suffragist

b. December 27,1857, Washington
d. August 26, 1943, Palo Alto
Address: 424 Seneca Street

Born in Catlin, Washington, Virginia Catlin was from a pioneer family which had originally settled in the Oregon Territory in 1847, after turning north from the Donner Trail. Her family ran a mountain sheep ranch until 1868, when they moved to Santa Rosa, where Ms. Catlin attended Christian College and obtained a teaching certificate. As a young woman, while working in a San Francisco factory in 1879, she became interested in the plight of the working person.

Her marriage in 1884 brought her to Palo Alto, where she pursued this interest by opening her home to a forum which resulted in the formation of a branch of the Socialist party - advocating fair labor laws, unions, and a better life for workers.

Shortly thereafter, Ms. Arnott devoted her energies to the burgeoning woman suffrage movement, ultimately becoming the chairperson of the County Suffrage Association and state auditor for the Equal Suffrage Association. Her efforts intensified when woman suffrage came on the ballot in 1911, after defeat in 1896. 1911 marks the year women finally obtained the vote in California. In Palo Alto, men voted four hundred and twenty in favor and ninety against, while statewide, suffrage was approved by only three thousand five hundred and seventy eight votes.

An avid contributor to the intellectual life of her community, as well as the mother of five children, Virginia Arnott was one of the first members of a cultural club for the comparative study of religions, of a

reading study club, of the Housewives' Union, and of the Birth Control League of Central California.

An enduring physical monument to Arnott is the Lawn Bowling Green on Embarcadero Road. Formerly President of the San Francisco Bowling Club, she was largely responsible for the development of the bowling green here. In 1933, Virginia Catlin Arnott became the first President of the Lawn Bowling Club in Palo Alto, devoting much time to her favorite game until she was well over 83. **mrf**.

Emma Belle Blair
Politician, Teacher

b. circa 1850, Clareton, Pennsylvania
d. April 11, 1938, Palo Alto
Address: 230 Kellogg Street

It took Palo Alto eight years from the date that women attained suffrage to elect a female council member. It took Emma Belle Blair only nine years of retirement in Palo Alto before she became that council person. Blair had been a school teacher in Pennsylvania until 1910 when she moved to Palo Alto.

Elected to a six year term in 1919, her election was at first jeopardized due to voter apathy. In the first round of voting, Blair did not gain a majority of the vote. Only twenty-five percent of the registered voters - equal to five hundred and ninety-three votes - went to the polls. Candidate Blair received two hundred and eighty-seven votes, ten fewer than needed for election. Due to the low voter turnout, the council seats were not filled and a second election was held. During this round of voting, Blair was elected with the highest number of votes cast. The Palo Alto Times reported that "...women were on the job yesterday, electioneering and voting and they elected Emma Belle Blair, with the highest vote received for councilman." Council person Blair was officially seated at the council's annual reorganization meeting on July 1, 1919. Retiring Mayor C. P. Cooley stated at her seating: "To you Miss Blair, I extend congratulations. You have the honor of being the first woman elected to the council of the city of Palo Alto, and it is indeed an honor. You will find the work agreeable, and, on behalf of the council, let me extend you a hearty welcome." During Blair's

tenure, the city council had fifteen members.

An air of apology for receiving female support or, perhaps, for simply having the temerity to run seems to permeate an apparent disavowal of partisan interests written by Blair and Mary Denison Wilt Thomas, another candidate for council, in a letter to the editor dated May 3, 1919. "In view of an article in the San Jose Mercury of April 30, we wish to make the following statement: (1) Our candidacy was suggested by a joint committee of the Palo Alto Civic League and the Palo Alto Woman's Club; but we are members of neither of these bodies; we do not represent either of them; nor have they sought to exact any pledge from us or to influence our policy in any way. (2) No other person or organization is responsible for our candidacy, and we are not pledged in any way to any other person or organization. (3) If we are elected to the council, we shall take office unhampered by any previously formed judgments in regard to the policy of the council, or by any pre-election pledges. We are seeking election solely as independent citizens of Palo Alto, who are ready to accept the responsibilities of citizenship." Had Blair and Thomas the benefit of hindsight, they would have realized that they were trend-setters in receiving "endorsements," a prize slavishly courted by contemporary politicians. Their greater importance, however, lay in their willingness to assume positions of power, theretofore reserved for men, and in their competent service to the city. **cc**

Besse Warner Bolton
Teacher

b. September 18, 1897, Osage, Iowa
d. November 8, 1985, Palo Alto
Address: 1125 Ramona Street
500 East Meadow Drive, Besse Bolton Children's Center

Born in Iowa, Besse Warner moved with her family to Twin Falls, Idaho in 1907. Married in 1914, she and her husband came to the Peninsula in 1921.

Besse Warner Bolton's first teaching experience was in a two-room, red school house in Portola Valley, replete with wood-burning stove and outdoor toilets. She joined the Palo Alto School District in 1932 as a kindergarten teacher, retiring in 1962. Bolton balanced teaching and raising a family with acquiring a college education. Receiving her bachelor's degree from San Jose State College, she also did graduate work at Stanford and at the Carl Jung Institute in Zurich, Switzerland.

Bolton, realizing the importance of early childhood in educational preparedness, is credited with starting the first pre-school program in Palo Alto. Following her bent for innovation in education, in 1945, she created the "family life education" program for the school district. The need for such a course was apparent to Ms. Bolton who noted that students were suffering because "...schools had one set of expectations for them and parents had another." Her parent education course, which called for up to fifteen children and one parent of each child to attend classes together, was held at the Night School. A local parent, Joan Holland, recalls that the course was a "unique way to learn about children." The course was structured so that parents observed their child's behavior in a classroom setting and then had the opportunity to discuss their observations in evening classes with the other parents, a psychologist, and teachers. Visits to the children's homes by professional staff were also arranged. The overall effect was to make parents more aware of the interactive behavior of children in a school setting and thus

become better parent-educators. This innovate concept was adopted by schools throughout California and its philosophy endures in such programs as Head Start.

Palo Alto is renowned for its excellent schools, and Bolton was a major contributor to that reputation. Her expertise in education was recognized in 1977 when the Besse Bolton Children's Center was named for her. **mrf**

Frances Hallam Brenner
Politician

b. 1914, Portland, Oregon
d. February 23, 1981, Palo Alto
Address: 10 Phillips Road

Frances Hallam Brenner's career as a politician not only defied the depressing stereotype but also provided a role model for true public servants. As a young girl in Portland, she developed a love for and knowledge of nature which she would later share with Palo Altans in her advocacy for the baylands and foothills. After attending the University of Oregon, she studied at the Chouinard Art Institute from 1939 to 1942.

One of Brenner's earliest involvements was as President of the League of Women Voters from 1961 to 1963. Sitting on the Planning Commission from 1963 to 1975, she changed the direction of Palo Alto's general plan away from commercial growth and towards a philosophy of preserving the existing low intensity commercial and residential character of the city. The forward-looking Comprehensive Plan of 1975 was truly Brenner's plan, as it was fashioned under her guidance. Seeing life through the eyes of an artist, she respected neighborhoods, landscapes, and people, and saw the danger of allowing automobiles to dominate city planning. A notoriously independent politician, Brenner explained to neighbor, Jim Culpepper that "...she would never accept a lunch from a developer because she wouldn't afterwards feel free to vote *in favor* of his project."

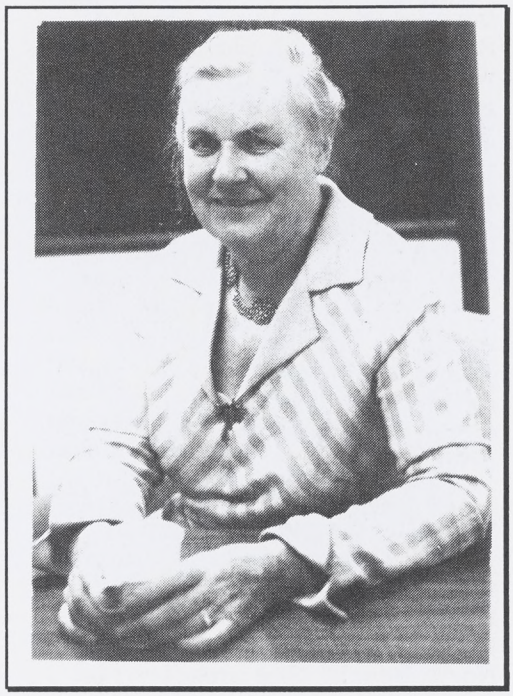
Never impressed by wealth or prestige and having little reverence for authority, Ms. Brenner received no traditional financial backing in her city council campaign. Based on her reputation and volunteer support, she won election and served from 1977 until her death in 1981. Even political adversaries had to admire the depth of Brenner's knowledge, her commitment to the process of govern-

ment, and her respect for the opinions of colleagues and those of the citizens she represented. Her expertise at political maneuver and surprise were best displayed in her skirmishes with the paid troops and greater firepower of Stanford University. When confronted by one of Stanford's on-going development plans, she responded with both realism and humor with her proposal to emancipate the campus by extending the blessings of municipal government to it.

Frances Hallam Brenner had a vision for her community and all its people which she shared through twenty-five years of leadership. In a moving eulogy, a young college freshman noted that "Frances had a way of radiating her warmth - and sense of caring to other women - she took time out to listen and be concerned with you. ...She made a difference in this town - and she has and will continue to make a difference in my life...."**mrf**

Frances Hallam Brenner"

...she would never accept a lunch from a developer because she wouldn't afterwards feel free to vote *in favor* of his project."



Juana Briones y Tapia de Miranda
Businesswoman, Midwife, Humanitarian

b. circa 1802, Santa Cruz
d. 1889, Mayfield
Address: 4155 Old Adobe Road
Page Mill Road and Birch Street
Juana Briones Park, Arastradero at Clemo Avenue

California was still a Spanish colony when Juana Briones was born in 1802 in Santa Cruz to Spanish-Mexican parents who had ventured north to the farthest reaches of New Spain in the 1770's. She was "Californiana," part of the families that erected the state's first towns, and she grew up near the Spanish-controlled San Francisco Presidio. By 1822, when Mexico won independence from Spain and California became a province of Mexico, Juana Briones was already married to Apolinario Miranda by whom she would have eight children.

The marriage was unhappy, and, when the couple separated in 1836, Briones took her children and built a house on land that is now Washington Square Park, thus becoming the first settler in North Beach. She prospered on her rancho - farming, tailoring, and bartering dairy products, vegetables, and leather for clothing, tools, and household items with the ships that dropped anchor in San Francisco Bay. W. H. Thomes, a sailor visiting the Mexican port of Yerba Buena (San Francisco,) described Briones in his travel journal, "On Land and Sea" as a bright, vivacious, and rich "widow." Thomes mistook the independent Briones for a "widow" because of the absence of her profligate husband. He admired her business acumen and her kindness and was impressed by her ability to wrestle an unruly cow into submission and then milk it "with perfect composure." Kindness combined with skill were evident in Briones's ability to deliver babies, set a broken jaw, and hide runaway teenage sailors who jumped ship to escape the cruel servitude common in whaling ships of the day. Her fame was such that the original name of North Beach in San Francisco was "La Playa de Juana Briones" - Juana Briones Beach.

In 1844, in a move highly unusual for the times, Briones petitioned Bishop Diego in Santa Barbara for a legal separation from her husband based on his unsavory companions, drunkenness, and failure to provide. In the same year, she bought the 4,400 acre Rancho La Purisima Concepcion from two Indigenous People for three hundred dollars. Most of this land lay in the town of

Los Altos, except for a small Palo Alto portion, where her house is located. Part of the original rancho land was purchased by Josephine Duveneck in 1923 and is now Hidden Villa. Loading her children and possessions onto "carretas," or two-wheeled wagons, Briones set off on the three day journey from San Francisco to Palo Alto.

By the time California was admitted to the Union as the thirty-first state in 1850, Ms. Briones was ensconced in her Palo Alto rancho - operating her business, caring for the sick and providing asylum. Chester Lyman, a surveyor hired to settle a boundary dispute between the Briones and Mesa property to the south, wrote in his 1848 diary, "We find our quarters at Madam Briones quite comfortable. The family is composed of the widow Briones, three daughters, two or three boys, half a dozen Indians, two little pet pigs in the cook house and fifteen or twenty dogs....There are two sick persons in the house, and Indian girl, of fever and a man, a sailor, apparently a Portuguese, who has a very bad cough."

The house, built in the 1840's by either Briones or the prior owners, is made of tamped earth in a wooden crib that was later cemented over. It is the oldest house in Palo Alto and, although it has been enlarged by succeeding owners, one can still imagine this spirited woman reigning there. In her later years, beset by rheumatism, Briones moved near her married daughters to a house in Mayfield (on Page Mill Road and Birch Street.)

It is remarkable to note that, despite changes in government, Ms. Briones cleverly documented her land claims in San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Santa Clara and so retained ownership under Mexican, Bear Republic, and American administrations. This was a rare and difficult feat for any "Californiana." Thomes noted that if the "Californios" had exhibited "...some of the energy of that buxom, dark-faced lady, California would have been a prosperous state even before it was annexed to this country, and we (the white settlers) would have had to fight harder than we did to get possession." Briones's proficiency was not limited to property management. Her medicinal skill was recognized when smallpox hit Bolinas in 1852 and she was summoned to help because of her prior experience in California's missions in quarantining and treating victims of other epidemics.

A park and school named in her honor attest to Juana Briones's importance in Palo Alto history. Her achievements lie not only in the unconventional things she accomplished, such as legally separating from her husband, becoming a landowner, succeeding as a business woman, and giving asylum to deserting sailors, but also in her ambition, devotion to her family, compassion, and generosity. **mrf**

Cornelia G. Burdick, "Corie"
Radio Journalist

b. 1897, Oregon City, Oregon
d. 1950, Palo Alto
Address: 1200 Bryant Street

When Corie Burdick settled in Palo Alto in 1941, new acquaintances already knew her or, at least, recognized her voice. Raised in the Northwest, she attended the University of Washington where she met her husband-to-be. Smitten by the stage, they left school to become "troopers" with various Northwestern stock companies. Ms. Burdick left the stage to write for Seattle newspapers, but performing remained her first love.

Her fame to Palo Altans and to tens of thousands of radio listeners across the nation came from her popular program "Dr. Kate", which was broadcast for eight years by NBC. Although radio broadcasting may seem second-best in the age of TV, its influence and that of its "stars," like Burdick, was widespread at the time.

Locally, she broadcast her own program over Station KEEN from 1947 to 1950. Entitled "Dr. Kate Calling," it featured information of special interest to women listeners on the Peninsula. She also wrote a regular column for The Mail-Dispatch called "On and Off the Air" from 1948 to 1950 which provided interviews with and "inside notes" about radio and theater personalities. Her broadcasting and writing have been characterized as candid, mischievous, spicy and whimsical.

Ms. Burdick's involvement with Palo Alto life was as exuberant as her career. Active in the Red Cross, the Palo Alto Historical Association, the Cub Scouts, and the Stanford Convalescent Home Auxiliary, she also was a leading figure in the Palo Alto Community Theater and appeared in Community Player productions. She expended special effort in fostering The Children's Theatre and was chairman of its board at the time of her death. A posthumous scholarship was established in her honor to support theatrical careers for recipients. **mrf**

Donaldina Cameron
Humanitarian

b. 1869, New Zealand
d. 1968, Palo Alto
Address: 1020 & 1040 South California Avenue
Cameron Park, 2100 Wellesley Avenue

Because immigration laws, custom, and poverty prevented Chinese women from joining their husbands in America, a lucrative trade developed in very young girls who were sold by their parents or kidnapped and forced into the short, cruel life of Chinatown "cribs." Donaldina Cameron moved to Palo Alto in 1942 after more than forty years spent in San Francisco rescuing these Chinese slave girls, who had been shipped through organized gangs to America to serve as prostitutes and slave laborers. Cameron raided the houses ("cribs",) kidnapped the girls, and brought them to the Presbyterian Rescue Mission, where they were educated and encouraged to contract suitable marriages. Having worked at the mission since 1895, she was made director in 1900. Constantly opposed by the Tong gang leaders, who called her "Fahn Quai" or "White Devil," Cameron freed and sheltered over three thousand young women. Over time, the Chinese community came to know and love her, naming her "Lo Mo," the mother.

Cameron's acquaintance with Palo Alto began long before settling here and was typical of her many cloak-and-dagger adventures. In 1900, a young woman, Kum Qui

escaped from her Palo Alto owners, and was brought to the mission. A San Jose constable accompanied the owner to San Francisco with a warrant charging the young girl with grand larceny. Donaldina insisted on staying with the girl to protect her, and so the two were driven down the Peninsula and jailed by a Palo Alto judge.

During the night, the jail door was battered down by the girl's captors who forcibly removed her from Ms. Cameron. At 2:30 a.m., Kum Qui's abductors convinced a Palo Alto Justice of the Peace to hold a trial by lantern. Finding the girl guilty, he levied a five dollar fine which the captors paid. They immediately whisked her back to San Francisco where a forced marriage ceremony was performed. When morning dawned, word of the night's events spread and Stanford students, professors, and townsfolk, deploring Palo Alto "justice," stormed the jail and dismantled it plank by plank.

A tip from Ms. Cameron's network of friends led to the arrest of one of Kum Qui's abductors, a known slave trader. A trial was held in Mayfield. Intent on saving Kum Qui, Donaldina conferred with immigration officials, who, determining that the girl was in America illegally, arrested her and made "Lo Mo" her legal guardian.

Through her incredible perseverance and her influence on legislators, Cameron helped wipe out the Chinese slave trade. Devoted to her work, Cameron never married despite numerous opportunities. Commenting on the attractiveness of marriage versus her work, she noted: "I am glad I did not settle for matrimony....I could not have had all this."

In honor of her heroism and insistence on human dignity and justice, the Rescue Mission was renamed Cameron House in 1949. Palo Alto dedicated Cameron Park at 2100 Wellesley Avenue to this legendary figure in 1968.

A more personal reward for Cameron's work occurred during her retirement in Palo Alto, when she was lovingly cared for by Tien Fu Wuh, who, at the age of five, had been rescued, housed, and educated by the Mission. Emulating Cameron, Tien devoted her life to saving lives in Chinatown. Ultimately, to show her appreciation for the woman who had given her life, Ms. Wu moved to 1040 California Avenue in Palo Alto to aid Donaldina Cameron in her old age. They are buried next to each other in Pacific Grove. em

Mary Grafton Campbell
"The Mother of the Woman's Club"

b. circa 1853
d. November 19, 1913, Eugene, Oregon
Address: Forest Avenue between Waverley and Cowper Streets

Mary Grafton Campbell's name has become synonymous with The Woman's Club of Palo Alto. A graduate physician, she had lived and studied in New York, Heidelberg, and Vienna. Married in 1870 in Karlsruhe, Germany, she spent time in Chicago, Colorado, and San Francisco before moving to Palo Alto. In Palo Alto, she continued her scientific studies, earning an A.B. in bionomics in 1898.

She organized twenty-four Palo Alto women into a Mother's Club, which, in 1894, became the Woman's Club. Because of Ms. Campbell's former experience as a member of the Chicago Woman's Club and her innate ability as a leader, she was elected President - an office she held until 1898. In a stirring acceptance speech, Campbell congratulated Palo Alto on no longer being a sort of half-orphan, since it now had city mothers as well as city fathers thus ensuring its better nature. The best description of this unusually gifted and generous woman was provided by her friend, Julia Gilbert: "She was a natural social leader, but her life was so dominated by her altruistic philosophy that common society triumphs had little attraction for her. Instead she gave herself first to her home and husband, and next to the serious scientific work she had undertaken in the university. Beyond these all she had and was were given freely to the development...of Palo Alto."

The Woman's Club, in creating the foundation of the city which would become the pride of the Peninsula, was given impetus and inspiration by Mary Grafton Campbell. Whether promoting the first public library, supporting the first schools, or sponsoring the suffrage movement - her reassurance and enthusiasm was the bedrock of the organization. Realizing the importance of political equality, she cajoled President David Starr Jordan to rearrange the already full university calendar to accommodate Susan B. Anthony. He acquiesced, and Ms. Anthony, and her companion, the Rev. Annie M. Shaw, spoke to a full chapel.

Ms. Campbell spent the years from 1903 to 1913 at Collier Cottage, the home of her brother-in-law, Prince Lucien Campbell, who was the innovative President of the University of Oregon and well-known for housing his family's female relatives.

There is more than one reason for Campbell to have earned the title "Mother of the Club." Having lost her own baby, she reared - in part or fully - thirteen girls and boys of other mothers. "It was," according to Julia Gilbert, "the attitude of motherhood that she unconsciously assumed toward every infant, enterprise or needy person that came within her influence." Her memorial is the City of Palo Alto itself. **mrf**

Mary Grafton Campbell
There is more than one reason for Campbell to have earned the title "Mother of the Club."

Isabel Peck Charles (Jones)
Attorney, Justice of the Peace

b. circa 1870
d. unknown
Address: 1106 Ramona Street
251 Lincoln Street

Isabel Peck graduated from Stanford University in 1900 just a year behind her mother, Anne Earl Peck who was the principal of Castilleja Hall. She was the second of five generations of Stanford alumnae/i. In 1917, Isabel Peck Charles was appointed Justice of the Peace for the territory covering Stanford University, Los Altos, and the unincorporated areas of the Palo Alto township, succeeding her recently deceased husband in that post. Within 18 months of serving, she completed her studies for and passed the state bar examination thus becoming the only woman Justice of the Peace in California who was also an attorney. In 1918, she was officially elected to office.

Although California women had gotten the vote in 1911, national suffrage was not achieved until 1920, and skepticism concerning a woman's ability to preside over civil and criminal cases abounded. Ms. Charles' performance erased all doubt that women might not have the efficiency or "judicial mind" to perform as well as men. Commented Justice of the Peace Charles Creighton: "Of course women have judicial minds the same as men have - that is, some men - for I have known men who had as little ability to judge fairly as women are so wrongfully reputed to have."

The variety of cases heard by Judge Charles included domestic relations, small claims, assault and battery, drunkenness, and speeding. Judge Charles's evaluation of the constantly recurring problem of spousal abuse was prescient. She believed that economic independence for women was the only way to end the cycle of domestic violence. A woman's ability to earn her own living would make it possible to break away from an abusive partner or to care for herself and her children if deserted.

As Justice of the Peace for eleven years, Judge Charles combined knowledge of the law with common sense in her opinions. Most importantly, she exploded the old theory that women, supposedly governed by their sentiments, are incapable of the judicial temperament. **mrf**

Esther Bridgman Clark
Physician

b. February 23, 1900, Mayfield
d. 1990, Palo Alto
Address: 2257 Hanover Street
960 Old Trace Road
300 Homer Avenue

Dr. Esther Bridgman Clark was one of the first female pediatricians in the United States. A graduate of Stanford Medical School, she campaigned earnestly to eradicate smallpox, promote immunization, and prevent child accidents. Her work on accident prevention led one paper to credit her with making Palo Alto "the safest place in the world for a baby to be born."

Clark was born in the old town of Mayfield, second of four children and the only girl of Professor A. B. Clark and his wife. Her mother, the daughter of a country doctor had wished to become a physician, but taught math instead. Her father was the first chairman of Stanford University's Art Department. At the age of ten, Clark became fascinated by the care of sick animals. By the end of her first year at Palo Alto Union High School (on Channing Avenue, where Channing House is now located,) she had decided to become a doctor. Her resolve stemmed partly from an incident in her freshman Biology class. The class had been asked by their teacher "What would you like to be when you grow up?" When Clark responded that she wanted to be a doctor, her fellow classmates burst into raucous laughter. After reprimanding the class's behavior, the teacher assured Clark that he had every confidence she would become a doctor. Encouraged by her parents to pursue higher education, Clark received her B.S. from Stanford in 1921 and her M.D. at the Stanford University School of Medicine in 1925. Completing a two year residency at San Francisco City and County Hospital, Dr. Clark returned to Palo Alto to become a founding

member of the Palo Alto Medical Clinic where she practiced for forty-five years. When asked about the difficulties of a woman pursuing a medical career at that time, she stated that, "...it didn't enter my mind that I couldn't do it because I was a woman. It would only have been because I personally didn't know enough."

At a time when general practice was the norm for physicians, Dr. Clark became interested in children's medicine. She supported childhood immunization and other practices that since have become standard pediatric procedure. Just after World War II, as the baby boom began, she was the only pediatrician between San Francisco and San Jose. In 1953, with a budget of ten thousand dollars, Dr. Clark founded the Children's Health Council (currently located at 700 Sand Hill Road.) A private, nonprofit community service agency, her organization is devoted to the care of children with mental, emotional, and physical disabilities.

On April 2, 1968, Dr. Clark delivered a speech at the White House on the subject of children's health. She outlined the history of vaccination, described the activities of the CHC, and discussed the causes of and solutions to mental retardation. On the latter subject, she explained that mental retardation could be eliminated by a "well-endowed environment, including clean air, clean water, adequate nutrition, learning opportunities, broad medical services and enough space (i.e., prevent overcrowding in communities.") We must become involved," she continued, "with population control and controlled, responsible parenthood."

Dr. Esther Bridgman Clark retired in 1973 but remained active, pursuing her interest in travel, photography, raising begonias, woodworking, and snorkeling. Twenty-two acres of park land on Old Adobe Road which she sold to the city in 1965 are named in her honor. **cc**

Elinor Valoy Cogswell
Newspaper Editor

b. September 30, 1892, Klamath Falls, Oregon
d. April 23, 1983, Menlo Park
Address: 682 Westridge Drive, Menlo Park
245 Lytton Avenue
Cogswell Park, Lytton Avenue and Ramona Street

In 1947, Elinor Valoy Cogswell, first female editor of The Palo Alto Times, wrote, "A newspaper's role in the functioning of democracy is

measured by the amount of significant news it makes available, intelligible, and interesting to its readers. An editor's job is (1) to choose the news that the readers of the community should know in order to be well-informed citizens; (1) to see that this news is accurately presented with enough background to make its meaning clear; (3) to get it past reader apathy by making it interesting and pointing up its significance." In her forty-one years at The Palo Alto Times, Elinor Cogswell made sure that her readers were well-informed citizens.

She was born on September 30, 1892 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Her father died when she was three years old, and, in 1895, she and her mother moved to San Jose. Ms. Cogswell studied kindergarten teaching, then returned to Oregon, where she taught school. Another move to the Bay Area occurred in 1912 when she entered Stanford University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. After earning an A.B. in 1916 and M.A. in English the following year, Cogswell spent 1917 to 1918 teaching in a private school in Maui.

Returning to Palo Alto in 1918 after deciding that she did not like teaching, Ms. Cogswell began working at the Palo Alto Times. Cogswell, with no formal training in journalism, joined an editorial staff of two. She replaced the city editor who "had failed to return (to work) from a binge" of drinking. As city editor, her beat was Palo Alto and Stanford activities; she was also the Palo Alto/Stanford correspondent for the San Francisco Chronicle. Cogswell served as woman's page editor, was promoted to assistant editor, and, in 1938, became editor in chief of the Times, a post she held for sixteen years. In the five years before her retirement in 1959, Elinor Valoy Cogswell wrote the well-known column, "EVC at bat...."

Among the many causes championed by Cogswell throughout her journalistic career, were off-street parking, master planning, clean government, a new Santa Clara County jail, humane treatment of animals, smog control, preservation of open space and historic values, civil rights for minorities, freedom of speech and of the press, and "whatever seemed to us to contribute to world peace." A step toward that peace was reported by Cogswell in her excellent coverage of the San Francisco signing of the United Nations Charter and in her interview with a member of Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov's entourage.

Cogswell had her own litany of pet causes - spring wildflowers, public toilets in the business district, stray puppies and lost kittens, curbside benches for old people, and landmarks and reminiscences of early days. Among the attributes for which she is known, her sense of humor was not the least.

After retirement, Cogswell continued to write on subjects such as the history of Stanford University and of the Peninsula. She also served as director of the Palo Alto Historical Association and was a member of the World Affairs Council. In 1975, Cogswell was named "Woman of History" by five Business and Professional Women's Clubs. "Being a lady editor," she wrote, "had both advantages and disadvantages, but I was more aware of the former than of the latter. For instance, when a man came in to wring the editor's neck, he was at a disadvantage when confronted by a woman. A lot of ugly situations just evapo-

rated and often excellent relationships grew out of them because unforgivable things had not been said. Once I had established confidence, I had no troubles that a man wouldn't have had, either with my news sources or my fellow workers, fine people and good companions."

It is strange to imagine Elinor Valoy Cogswell having to "establish" confidence given the skill with which she wrote and the ability she demonstrated as Editor-in-Chief.

The confidence Palo Altans had in her was recognized in the dedication of Cogswell Plaza in May 1955, a park space she had fought valiantly to save from the encroachment of parking lots. **cc**

Anita Lawrence Corbert, "Annie"
Suffragist

b. unknown, Nantucket, Massachusetts
d. 1929, Palo Alto
Address: 533 Bryant Street

Anita Lawrence Corbert was born in Nantucket, Massachusetts and spent her early life there. Arriving in Palo Alto in 1892 in order to provide a university education for her daughters, she was among the first residents to establish a home here. Brilliant and highly educated, Ms. Corbert was extremely interested in civic affairs. A charter member of The Woman's Club, she was a strong participant in that group's establishment of the first library. She worked strenuously, soliciting private subscriptions until the city officially took over the library in 1902.

Her most significant contribution to Palo Alto lay in her suffrage activities. Corbert was State treasurer of the California Equal Suffrage Association which boasted three thousand four hundred women members in San Francisco alone. More germane was her tenure, from 1896 to 1905, as President of the local Political Equality Club whose purpose was to educate men and women about the cause of woman suffrage. The announcement of the club's formation appeared in The Palo Alto Times in 1895 and met with a patronizing editorial response from that paper: "A Woman's Suffrage Club is to be permanently organized.... We suppose we must pray for grace and be reconciled in the thought that as colic, mumps, and measels (sic) are common to childhood, so every new town has its infantile mental diseases. Fathers, husbands, sons and brothers should observe

a strict quarantine in this crisis, and we may experience only a light attack of the epidemic." Forced to apologize for their "joke," the paper agreed to publish "signed articles of reasonable length from the ladies of the town." Putting this offer to good use, the Political Equality Club published five articles in The Palo Alto Times preceding the failed 1896 election on the issue of woman suffrage. Their efforts produced a 71% favorable local vote despite a state-wide defeat. Internationally known suffragist Alice Park credited Corbert with the growth and influence of the Political Equality Club and the esteem with which it was held among men and women in Palo Alto.

The very fact that the little house at 533 Bryant Street is called the "Byxbee" house is an indication of the writing of history in the male vernacular. The most historically famous person to live in this house was Anita Lawrence Corbert. To those who appreciate history and the role that Anita Corbert played in the making of women's history, 533 Bryant Street is "The Corbert House." **mrf**

Josephine Whitney Duveneck
Humanitarian, Politician, Educator, Author

b. 1891, Boston
d. June 19, 1978, Hidden Villa
Address: 1445 Hamilton Avenue
Duveneck School, 705 Alester Avenue

Josephine Whitney, born into a socially prominent Boston family, characterized her childhood as isolated and lacking love and "meaningful human contacts." Her early life was made miserable by an overly critical, possessive mother. "It became evident to me that Mama was my enemy whether she was my mother or not, and it was my business to learn to love her." In recognizing that a frustrated life led to her mother's tyranny, Whitney was able to become more tolerant and to accentuate her mother's great qualities such as the fact that she had accrued a notable library in her successful efforts at self-education. These characteristics of tolerance and affirmation, acquired as a young girl, are evident throughout her life.

Whitney attended Radcliffe College and, in 1911, studied at Oxford, where women could attend lectures but not receive degrees. Determined to have a career as a writer, she forestalled the overtures of Frank Duveneck. "I re-

sisted all the way, making sure I did not allow myself to fall in love. By testing every step, it might be said that I sauntered into love." They were married in 1913. During her honeymoon in Asia and Europe, Ms. Duveneck began to consider the possibility of devoting her energies to helping others rather than to writing.

After the birth of the first two of four children, the Duvenecks moved to California. Having decided that "...this Western land was where I belonged," Duveneck and her children moved into a house on Hamilton Avenue while her husband was serving overseas in World War I. 1918 brought her first involvement in the city of seven thousand five hundred when she ran an employment service at the Palo Alto Community Center House (designed by Julia Morgan.) The goal of the service was to afford young mothers time off from household duties by putting them in contact with help.

Duveneck was soon chairman of the committee that ran the house and, in 1923, became the third woman elected to the City Council. She ran for council "because I believe that there should be more than one woman representative on this board." Finding city politics "tedious" and refusing a second term, Ms. Duveneck, nonetheless, was central during her term in appointing the first woman, Ms. Wycoff, to the Palo Alto Police Force and in convincing the council to create Elinor Park on the five-acre property donated by Ms. Dixon. She also shamed council members into removing a corrupt Police Chief and his cohorts from office. When a fellow council member called this action "courageous", Duveneck responded "I couldn't see what courage had to do with it, but, of course, I was not involved in business and could act without fear of reprisal." Ms. Duveneck's contribution to Palo Alto was acknowledged, in 1982, by the naming of an elementary school after her and her husband.

Dissatisfied with local public and private education, Duveneck next poured her energies into founding the Peninsula School in 1925. Dedicated to the principles of progressive education promulgated by Maria Montessori and John Dewey, Ms. Duveneck was the principal of and teacher at the school for sixteen years from 1925 until 1941. For another three years, she served as director of the foundering Presidio Hills School in San Francisco restoring it to success. The Palo Alto years are described as among the happiest and most serene of Duveneck's life. Her children were "...a completely absorbing vocation. All the modern propaganda about 'women's lib' should not overlook this prerogative of motherhood in the first years, which is too precious to forgo even in the interest of a professional career." In assessing the importance of "motherhood," Duveneck did not acknowledge the possibility that parenting is not the sole prerogative of women and that men, women, and children would benefit from equal participation in "parenthood."

Camping expeditions played a prominent role in the Duveneck household. On one of these trips, they encountered an untouched, one thousand acre hidden valley in the Los Altos Hills which they purchased for $25.00 an acre in 1924. The family moved there permanently in 1929, and, as the open space around them filled up, the Duvenecks increased their holdings to two thousand two hundred acres, ultimately donating four hundred and thirty acres to the Midpeninsula Regional

Open Space District in 1977. The majority of the remaining land is part of The Hidden Villa trust.

During these years at Hidden Villa, Ms. Duveneck and her husband shared their land and love of nature with others, helping spawn the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, founding the Pacific Coast's first youth hostel in 1941 as well as an inter-racial camp in 1945. War-time activism included aiding European refugees through the American Friends Service Committee, and promoting justice for farm workers, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Indigenous Peoples. Duveneck was instrumental in the 1945 creation of the Palo Alto-Los Altos Fair Play Council which was formed to assist Japanese Americans, displaced during World War II, to return to their homes and jobs. The council also fought real estate covenants which barred members of minority groups from property ownership. Well known for her humanitarian work, Ms. Duveneck was chairperson of the American Association for the United Nations and hosted UN delegates at Hidden Villa.

Realizing her youthful dream to be an author, Duveneck wrote a biography of her father in law: Frank Duveneck: Painter, Teacher, two collections of short stories: Hidden Villa Tales and Hidden Villa Animal Tales and an autobiography: Life On Two Levels.

"Shallow lives need dressing up; good lives don't" wrote Wallace Stegner in his introduction to this amazing woman's autobiography.

Aware that she had a dominating personality whose natural tendency was to impose her will on others, Duveneck worked hard to overcome this characteristic. In doing so, she came to realize that real change comes from within. Her legacy lay in her ability to transmit her boundless energy to those around her - and from that energy came great things. **mrf**

Josephine Whitney Duveneck

She ran for council In 1923 "because I believe that there should be more than one woman representative on this board."

Sybil Unis Easterday
Sculptor

b. November 9, 1876, San Jose, California
d. 1961, Half Moon Bay
Address: Town of Mayfield, College and Bowdoin

Sybil Easterday achieved fame in turn-of-the-century America as a noted sculptor. She was heralded in the press as a "genius," and critics predicted that Easterday's name would be heard the world over. In retrospect, the life and meteoric career of this woman is enigmatic, tantalizing, and provoking.

As a child, Easterday moved with her family from San Jose to a farm near Hayward. Her mother's family, the Littlejohns, was one of the first three Caucasian families to settle in Redwood City and Flora Littlejohn had been trained to be a concert pianist, an ambition which was terminated by her marriage to Solomon Easterday. Sybil Easterday's creative bent was first exhibited in her childhood experiments with sculptures using mud, butter, and putty to mold imaginary figures. A beautiful child, but frail, she was educated at home by tutors - one of whom discovered that the eight year old Sybil had a natural flair for dramatics. This talent led to a three year stint as a performer throughout the Bay Area, predating Hollywood child stars. Dressed in elaborate costumes, beribboned and glittering with buckles and baubles, she was billed as "Little Sybilla, the Child Genius." "Sybilla" was a sensation throughout Contra Costa and San Mateo counties; her flair for the theatrical would continue throughout her life. During her teens, Easterday showed great promise in art, taking lessons from the noted painter, Juan Buckingham Wandersforde, who was one of the founders of the San Francisco Art Association. Encouraged by Wandersforde, she convinced her parents to allow her to enroll at the finest art school in the West, the Mark Hopkins Institute for Art in San Francisco. Studying for four years under luminaries such as Arthur F. Mathews, Douglas Tilden, and Robert I. Aitken, Ms. Easterday consistently impressed her instructors with the high quality and originality of her work. Unlike the majority of women at the Institute, she was not deterred by the live nude models or the lifting of heavy armatures required in Tilden's modeling class.

After leaving the Institute, she labored from 1899 to 1903 in a fifth floor loft in San Francisco, where fame came not only for her sculpture but also for her mode of dress. While working, Easterday

wore men's duck trousers, a flannel shirt, and low-cut shoes.

Disdaining "feminine fripperies" as too cumbersome and impractical, she told a reporter in 1901, "You are wondering why I am disloyal to...my sex and have adopted male attire? I only wear this suit while working in my studio, and I do it to be free and comfortable." Journalists nationwide described her unorthodox attire and marveled that this determined sculptor "lived alone in her studio with no interest in anything but art."

Her 1901 prize for a portrait bust in one of Hopkin's noted art exhibitions caused art critics to compare her work favorably to the great Aitken and to laud her financial and artistic success.

By 1899, Easterday's parents had built a home in Mayfield's College Terrace at College and Bowdoin, where they included a large studio for their daughter. Visiting her parents monthly, she worked in College Terrace on her larger pieces, including one entitled "Memory Unveiling the Past." She worked on this project for over a year, constantly photographing the clay model to study it for imperfections before casting it in plaster. Unfortunately this fragile six foot panel with its allegorical theme was not cast in bronze and did not survive.

In 1903, Easterday traveled to Mexico where she was commissioned to do a portrait of the president, Porfirio Diaz. So remarkable was this "perfect likeness" that it launched her into a two year period of sculpting celebrities in Mexico City. In addition, Ms. Easterday enjoyed a colorful social life in the international colony there.

The enigma of Sybil Easterday began in 1905 when she returned to her parent's home and decided to end her artistic career. For the next fifty-six years, she lived in relative seclusion turning to art only as a pastime. Seemingly distraught because of a trauma in her love life, she expressed her emotional turbulence by moving with her family to their cabin on one hundred and sixteen acres south of Half Moon Bay. It is difficult to reconcile the once passionate devotion to art with the choice of a life as a recluse. The Sybil Unis Easterday who once

Sybil Easterday

"... lived alone in her studio with no interest in anything but art."

said "I *must* succeed. Love for the holy and exalted is not a thing of sex. My soul cries out for expression of the best within me. I may never reach the ideal but I will never cease in the effort." died in isolation in 1961. **dc.**

Lucy Evans
Teacher, Conservationist, Historian

b. 1903, Wyoming
d. March 7, 1978, Palo Alto, Ca.
Address: 1440 California Avenue

Lucy Evans began her long and extraordinary association with Palo Alto when she moved here at the age of two. After receiving teaching credentials from San Jose State College in the early 1920's, she began her first teaching assignment in the Salinas Valley. Becoming interested in its horticulture, particularly flowers, she compiled a list of endangered plant species in the area.

Returning to the Bay area, Evans enrolled at Stanford University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1929 with a degree in history. From 1944 until her retirement in 1967, she taught at Mayfield School where she implemented teaching techniques, such as extensive field trips, which were unheard of at that time. To her students, Evans was not only a teacher who captivated their minds in the classroom but also a friend who maintained contact with them throughout their lives. For her class trips, Evans used materials supplied by the Audubon Society, which she joined in 1950, and this led to her extensive exploration of and devotion to the baylands.

Ms. Evans's interest in and knowledge of the environment was evident not only in her classroom but also in her community activism. A council watchdog, she fought determinedly but with humor to convince her elected representatives of the need to preserve and protect the baylands and to maintain the Palo Alto Duck Pond. Evans took humorous pride in her nicknames of "Baylands Lucy" and "The Duckpond Lady." At times, she supplied arcane information to city officials, such as her discovery that the bank of San Francisquito Creek had been donated by Timothy Hopkins to the city for a park in 1894. That narrow buffer of land was then dedicated as the Timothy Hopkins Creekside Park in 1934.

An active member of both the Palo Alto and Stanford Historical Associations, Ms. Evans main-

tained voluminous files in her house and was renowned as a ready source of information for hard-to-find historical data.

Upon her death, Lucy M. Evans was honored as an historian by the Palo Alto Historical Association, as an environmentalist by the Palo Alto Audubon Society, as a conservationist by the Peninsula Conservation Center, and as all of these by the Palo Alto City Council in Ordinance 3067 which changed the name of the "Palo Alto Baylands Nature Interpretative Center" to the "Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretative Center." Lucy Evans's name is immortalized, but, more importantly, her spirit is captured by any visitor who strolls along the baylands trails.. **mrf**

Lucy Evans

Ms. Evans's interest in and knowledge of the environment was evident not only in her classroom but also in her community activism.

Elizabeth Frances Gamble
Philanthropist

b. October 7, 1888, Paris, Kentucky
d. July 1, 1981, Palo Alto
Address: 1431 Waverley Street

Elizabeth Gamble came from Kentucky to Palo Alto with her family in August 1901. She was the great granddaughter of James Gamble, a co-founder of Proctor and Gamble. Except for her college years at Wellesley, Ms. Gamble lived continuously in the show-place house, built in 1906 and set on two acres, which she bequeathed to the City of Palo Alto in 1964.

Ms. Gamble's interest in gardening, particularly her experiments with rare varieties of iris, is well-known. Her friendly but unassuming personality obscured her remarkable generosity. She expressed her interest in the welfare of young people, particularly women, in diverse ways, from simple bouquets of flowers given to neighborhood children and tea parties for young girls graduating from the eighth grade, to personal loans for college education and financial support for the building fund and program of the YWCA. A significant contributor to All Saints Episcopal Church, she was also the superintendent of its Sunday school from 1920 to 1960. As founding member of the Palo Alto - Stanford Hospital Center Auxiliary, her financial assistance and direct involvement helped establish patient loans, a visiting nurse program, and the construction of a nurses' cottage at the Palo Alto Hospital.

Elizabeth Norton, founder of the Palo Alto Art Club, described Ms. Gamble as belonging to organizations which had a civic goal and were not primarily social clubs. Her contribution to generations is immortalized in the beautiful Gamble property, which, through the efforts of the Garden Club, is open to the public for strolling, classes, and receptions. The fact that Elizabeth Frances Gamble's help was given freely and warmly makes her a significant representative of the many women leaders whose generosity has enhanced life in Palo Alto. **mrf**

Julia Ringgold Hughes Gilbert
Community Activist

b. December 6, 1849, Bloomington, Indiana
d. November 29, 1916, Palo Alto
Address: 433 Melville Street

After graduating from Oxford Female Seminary, Julia Ringgold Hughes did post-graduate work at the University of Indiana. She taught school, became principal and, then, superintendent of schools in Bloomington. In 1883 she married, and she came to Palo Alto eight years later when her husband was offered a faculty position at the newly-founded Stanford University. As a faculty wife, Ms. Gilbert worked with female undergraduates and was extremely active in Palo Alto life.

Gilbert was one of the charter members of the Palo Alto Woman's Club and served as its president in 1902-03. Two years of effort, including book socials and a gift book sale, had preceded the Woman's Club's opening of a two hundred volume public reading room in 1896. Ms. Gilbert, herself, raised one thousand dollars in order to form a circulating library in 1898. When the library was officially dedicated to the city trustees on October 1, 1902, it contained over two thousand three hundred volumes, served one thousand readers, and had cost the Woman's Club three thousand three hundred and eighty-seven dollars to create. At that time, Gilbert wrote in her report to the Woman's Club: "Our effort was to study the peculiar needs of this town and to meet those needs without reference to the stock plans of the usual library. No book has gone on our shelves until it has been investigated from this point of view after the literary quality and moral tone has been passed upon. In addition to providing good literature, we have tried to keep abreast of the times by seeking authentic publications on all world publications, military, social or industrial, avoiding as far as possible partisan publications..." Ms. Gilbert served as trustee of the library until two weeks before her death.

In addition to her outstanding work in making the city's library a reality, Julia Gilbert contributed to increasing women's participation in the electoral process by organizing civic study classes for women in 1911. On January 24, 1912, Ms. J. B. Hume, former president of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs, addressed the local club's civic study class about woman suffrage. She stated that: "California is the largest, most populous and most important of the states having suffrage. The non-suffrage states are looking to California for the proof of the suc-

cess of equal suffrage. It is impossible for women who have known nothing concerning the duties of citizenship to vote intelligently, and it is the purpose of the civic league to establish civic centers to acquaint women with the technique of citizenship, to interest women, not already interested and to interest the majority of women." At the close of this spirited address, the Palo Alto chapter of the Civic League was formed, with Julia Gilbert as president. The Civic League had a membership of one hundred. In a 1913 presidential report, Gilbert wrote: "It then established the policy of working for two definite objects: intelligent responsible citizenship for women and community welfare."

The Civic League gave lessons in "Qualifications for Citizenship, Registration and Voting," "Party Conventions and District Primaries," and "The California Legislature, its Organization, History, and Work." Classes were available about local, state and federal issues prior to each election. It is to Gilbert's credit, that her Civic League concentrated on that aspect of Ms. Hume's talk which emphasized getting out the female vote and not on the dubious assumption that women were different from men in needing help to "vote intelligently." In the area of community welfare, the League's sanitation committee was very successful in improving sanitary conditions in Palo Alto's meat markets, bakeries, dairies, and candy shops. In a 1915 letter to the editor of The Palo Alto Times, Gilbert noted that the Sanitation Committee had investigated food markets and convinced owners to renovate and maintain them.

A charter member of the Palo Alto Daughters of the American Revolution, Gilbert also chaired the city's branch of the Stanford - Palo Alto Belgian Relief Committee. After a lifetime devoted to the betterment of her community and to the role played by women in that community, Julia Gilbert died at the age of sixty-seven. A friend reported that on the day before she fell ill, Ms. Gilbert attended meetings of three organizations and was a speaker at two of them. At a tribute given for Julia Gilbert, The Palo Alto Times called her "a torchbearer among the explorers of the fields of useful knowledge." The fireplace in the Palo Alto Library is dedicated to Julia Gilbert with the inscription, "Constant source of inspiration to this library from its beginnings and for seventeen years a trustee, this fireplace is dedicated in loving appreciation of her unfailing service." **cc**

Anne Hadden
Librarian

b. August 16, 1874, County Cork, Ireland
d. August 30, 1963, Pacific Grove, California
Address: 1159 Ramona Street
462 Melville Avenue
151 Kellogg Avenue

Anne Hadden's career as a librarian is intertwined with the founding, in 1896, of Palo Alto's first library by The Woman's Club of Palo Alto. Ms. Hadden, with her widowed mother and five siblings, emigrated from Ireland to Oakland where she graduated from Oakland High School in 1894. The family moved to Ramona Street in 1899 with an eye to college for all the children. Anne Hadden graduated from Stanford in 1901 and obtained a certificate from the first library training course given at the University of California in 1902. During her student years, from 1899 to 1901, she was appointed librarian, with her sister, Elizabeth Hadden as assistant, of the three-year-old Woman's Club library.

Realizing that a town where newspapers and books were lent from house to house was a town with a passion for reading, The Woman's Club of Palo Alto started the first reading room on August 15, 1896, two years after the club's birth. Authors' teas and book socials, where each member contributed a book or money, preceded the search for a site. The fact that two hundred books were collected at the first social inspired book store owner, H. W. Simkins, whose clerk and future wife, Ms. Eleanore Abbott was a member of the club, to contribute shelf space in his book store at 166 University Avenue. The offer was accepted, the books were prepared by Ms. Anita Corbert, and club members, bringing children and sewing chores with them, served as librarians. In striving to establish a circulating library, Club President, Mary Grafton Campbell felt no compunction in asking the townspeople for needed funds. Encouraging fellow fund-raiser and club member, Julia Gilbert, she stated: "Why, it is offering people a privilege, let me ask them!" The library opened in 1898.

By 1899, when Anne and Elizabeth Hadden ran the library, they worked nine hours a day and earned a combined salary, paid by The Woman's Club, of fifteen dollars a month. Although the library boasted two thousand three hundred volumes by 1902, it had been forced to move three times in three years - from 166 University Avenue to Nortree Hall, at University and High, to Emerson,

between University and Hamilton. Tiring of temporary sites, The Woman's Club, in 1902, began raising money in order to apply for a matching fund grant of ten thousand dollars from The Carnegie Foundation which would enable a permanent, public facility to be built. The Club raised over $700.00 and the City of Palo Alto trustees agreed to contribute 10% annually if the grant were obtained. The Carnegie funds were granted and the city officially took over the library in 1902, naming Anne Hadden as librarian. A new library was dedicated on November 1, 1904 at the present City Hall site. While city librarian, Ms. Hadden had the foresight to begin a collection of maps, pamphlets, newspapers and other documents pertaining to the history and development of Palo Alto.

Anne Hadden continued as Palo Alto's librarian until 1911 when she became assistant to the California State Library; the following year, she helped organize the Kern County Free Library in Bakersfield. In 1913, Hadden was invited to Monterey County to organize a county library. Even her pioneering work in Palo Alto could not have prepared her for this task. The first quarters of her "library" were outdoors under the branches of a tree that stood in a garden on the present site of the Salinas post office. For twenty three years, she labored to make the Monterey County Library one of the finest in the state - traveling on horseback to remote areas in order to establish county library branches and, in the process, cataloguing one of the finest collections of early California history.

In 1936, Hadden came back to Palo Alto as city librarian, a position she maintained until her retirement in 1943. Anne Hadden's career combined both pioneering adventure and meticulous scholarship. An example of the esteem in which she was held is the fact that John Steinbeck, a nominee for the James D. Phelan Award for Literature, asked his friend, Anne Hadden for a letter of recommendation. Her work, like that of countless unsung heroines of the library, illuminated the lives of generations. **mrf**

E. Pearl Hannah
Dentist

b. December 9, 1898, Hobson's Saw Mill, Ca.
d. November 23, 1993, East Palo Alto
Address: 2136 Lincoln Avenue

A Mother Lode lumber camp forty miles from Yosemite provided the dramatic, if impoverished, backdrop for Dr. E. Pearl Hannah's birth. A third-generation Californian, she and her mother, tired of poverty, moved to San Francisco where the young girl attended high school. Working her way through dental school at a factory job that paid one dollar per day could not have been easy even for this product of hard-working mountain people. When Dr. Hannah received board certification in 1923, after graduating from the College of Dentistry, she was employed by the Palo Alto Parent-Teacher Association Dental Program.

This first woman dentist in our city devoted the next thirty-eight years of her life to healthy teeth for Palo Alto school children. Upon her retirement, the dental program was discontinued but not without strong disapproval from Hannah who questioned Palo Alto's priorities: "If a city can afford a municipal golf course, it can afford a dental health clinic."

Dr. Hannah's retirement was happily occupied promoting animal welfare through the Peninsula Animal Welfare Society (PAWS.) She founded the group in 1950

E. Pearl Hannah

when she got no official action after filing a complaint about an abused puppy. Her letter to the editor recounting the incident drew wide support for Hannah. "Right away, I knew I had a tiger by the tail!" And so began the all-volunteer, non-profit society whose novel idea of spaying and neutering pets is now commonplace.

E. Pearl Hannah's life was marked by a gritty will to succeed despite the odds, combined with a loving guardianship of children and animals. Fulfilled in her own life, she left us with a task: "This world belongs to all of us, and it is finite. We must work together to save what's left of it." **mrf**

Catherine Harker Sara Harker
School Founders

b. Unknown, Portland, Oregon April 1, 1868, Portland, Ore.,
d. 1938, Palo Alto April 23,1956, Palo Alto
Address 118 Greenwood Avenue(Catherine and Sara)
1020 Bryant Street(Catherine)
1121 Bryant Street
Melville and Harker Avenues

Catherine Harker was born in Portland, Oregon and educated at Vassar College. While teaching Latin and Greek at Mills College, she met fellow teacher, Edith Jordan, the daughter of President David Starr Jordan. At his request, Harker agreed to a more uncertain future but a greater challenge, coming to Palo Alto in 1902 to found a school for girls. The school, which opened on August 14, 1902, was originally named for Stanford Professor Wilbur Thoburn, whose daughter, Helen was one of the first eighty students. A year later, Elizabeth Hughes joined the staff and the school's name was changed to the Harker Hughes School. When Catherine's decisive sister, Sara Harker joined the administrative staff in 1904, the name game ceased, and the school was henceforth known as Miss Harker's School. Catherine taught Latin and Mathematics while Sara taught music and took over the business operation of the school.

Originally housed in the former Castilleja Hall at 1121 Bryant Street, Miss Harker's School occupied several rented houses before the sisters purchased a six acre plot of land in 1907 at Melville and Harker Avenues. A main building was constructed with other facilities added through the years. The school educated girls at the grammar and high

school levels in preparation for attendance at Stanford University. Tuition and board in 1903 was five hundred dollars. Upon her death in 1938, Catherine's sister , Sara became head of the school.

Sara, born on April 1, 1868, had received a musical education and was an accomplished violinist and pianist. At Miss Harker's, she founded and headed the school's music department. Sara's motto was "non ministrari, sed ministrare" - not to be served but to serve. During World War I, Sara headed the California Office of the Belgium Relief Commission. After World War I, she voyaged to Australia, then studied in Boston at the Prince School, which was affiliated with Harvard University. She traveled throughout Europe during the summer of 1931 before returning to Miss Harker's School. During the Great Depression, Sara's shrewd business sense in renting out some of their buildings enabled the sisters to keep the school open.

After her sister Catherine's death in 1938, Sara became head of Miss Harker's School. On the occasion of the school's fiftieth anniversary, a colleague of Sara's wrote of her, "Her leadership is one of enthusiasm, sincerity and high ideals. Always, she is interested in the individual with her talents and potentialities... She places strong emphasis on high academic standards, but above all, she values the building of character." In 1951, at the age of eighty-three, Sara retired but returned the following year. She remained as head of the school until her death in 1956.In 1959, Major Donald Nichols, superintendent of the Palo Alto Military Academy, purchased Miss Harker's School and merged it the following year with his boy's school. In 1972, Harker Academy moved to San Jose, where it remains to this day.

cc

Catherine Harker

Catherine taught Latin and Mathematics while Sara taught music and took over the business operation of the school.

Hester K. Harrison
Recreation Supervisor

b. 1901, San Bernadino, California
d. January 1988, Palo Alto
Address: 2385 Louis Road

A graduate of Oakland's Polytechnic Business College, Hester Harrison made Palo Alto her home for sixty four years. An advocate of inter-racial understanding, Harrison was known affectionately as "Miss K" to generations of Palo Altans during her twenty-four years as recreation supervisor at Mayfield School, Peers Park, Mitchell Park and the Community Center.

Ms. Harrison shared her talents and energy with the African-American community in numerous ways. She moved to Palo Alto in the year that the University African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church opened its doors at 819 Ramona Street. For years, this church served as the social and cultural center for the African American community on the Peninsula. Ms. Harrison devoted thirty years as choir director and organist at this church and at the new church which was built in 1966 on Middlefield Road. Harrison was also past director of the children's choir at the Ladera Community Church and a charter member of the Pride of the Peninsula, Chapter 36, Order of the Eastern Star.

Harrison's goal always was to enlarge opportunities and build self-esteem in black youngsters. She felt that action against discrimination begins with the individual. In a 1951 talk to the Addison School PTA she urged her audience, "Employers now blame the public for refusal to employ minority people. If you speak out, the employer will no longer have an alibi." Of her years of involvement with young people, Ms. Harrison noted that, "All are accepted with good will, for the young are intolerant only of bad sports." Despite her years, Hester Harrison retained the youthful virtues of tolerance and good will.

In recognition of her many years spent in financing and maintaining the gardens at University A.M.E. Zion, a Hester Harrison Memorial Garden was established. During the Centennial Celebration, Harrison was nominated to the Palo Alto Hall of Fame. **mrf**.

Rose Tong Jew
Community Activist

b. unknown, San Francisco, California
d. 1972, Palo Alto
Address: 647 Emerson Street
1001 Fulton Street

One of eight children, Rose Tong was born in San Francisco's Chinatown. Her father encouraged his children, including all seven daughters, to receive an education. After 1908, a marriage was arranged between Ms. Tong and Ngum You Jew, and the couple operated a laundry in Menlo Park. The Jews with their newborn son, Paul moved to Palo Alto in 1912 settling in a store-front style home at 647 Emerson Street. It is thought that this move made them the first Chinese-Americans to buy Palo Alto property.

Ms. Jew raised eight children, all of whom attended college and entered successful careers. In addition, she participated with her husband in his business ventures which included opening three restaurants and acquiring property. Jew and her family struggled to make a life in a community that did not always welcome them. Honor, pride, and hard work enabled Jew, like other Asian immigrants , to succeed despite obstacles.

Her involvement with the community was on a very personal level: for more than six decades, she was the liaison between Chinese and Caucasian residents. Humorously referred to as an "employment agency" by her family, Rose Jew filled requests by residents to find a cook or maid. Her skill at interpreting made her invaluable to immigrant women when visiting doctors, giving birth, and seeking housing. Ms. Jew's contribution to Palo Alto was recognized by her induction into the Palo Alto Hall of Fame during its Centennial Celebration. No finer tribute to this hard-working and generous woman could have been made than that of her daughter Lillian, "She opened her heart to everyone." **mrf**.

Dr. Edith Eugenie Johnson
Physician

b. October 3, 1872, Homer, Nebraska
d. April 7, 1966, Menlo Park, Ca.
Address: 375 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto
Medico-Dental Building (Hamilton and Ramona)
Johnson Park, Hawthorne Avenue & Waverley Street

Edith Eugenie Johnson, born on October 3, 1872 to immigrant parents in Homer, Nebraska, decided on a medical career as a young girl. After completing Teacher's College in Sioux City, Iowa, she went on to become one of the first female graduates of Cornell University Medical School in 1907. In that year, Dr. Johnson moved to Palo Alto to begin her medical practice as an advisor to Stanford University women. In 1916, when Dr. Clelia Mosher left Stanford to serve in France, Dr. Johnson replaced her as Chief Medical Advisor to Stanford women.

Within two years of her arrival, Dr. Johnson had a thriving practice of her own, specializing in obstetrics, and, in 1911, she opened an office in the Medico-Dental Building at the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Ramona Street. She remained at this location for thirty-five years, then moved her office to her home at 375 Hawthorne Street, where she continued to see longtime patients until seven months before her death at age ninety-three.

"Many people preferred a woman doctor when I first started practicing," noted Dr. Johnson, and, indeed, from 1911 to 1926, she was Palo Alto's only female doctor. Her 1954 memoir, Leaves from a Doctor's Diary, details her work as general physician, obstetrician, midwife, psychiatrist, advisor and peacemaker for her patients, many of whom were first-generation Asian and Hispanic immigrants. It was during the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, that Dr. Johnson earned the title "White Angel" because of her outstanding work. The Depression years brought another form of tribute when about fifty newborn girls were named Edith by poor but grateful parents who could proffer no other form of payment. After delivering the children, Dr. Johnson would often provide clothing for them. The "White Angel" estimated that, during her career, she delivered 3,500 babies in the Bay Area, from Los Gatos to Napa to the East Bay.

In 1916, this remarkable physician became a pioneer in the field of anesthetics by equipping her Maxwell automobile with a Heidebrink gas machine and ample supplies of nitrous oxide and oxygen. This car, with no top and no self-starter, became a rolling obstetrics ward and often was

used by the Peninsula Hospital (located on Embarcadero Road, the site of the present Bowling Green Park) which had no anesthetic devices.

In a 1954 interview with the Daily Palo Alto Times, a sardonic "White Angel" recalled that while she was preparing to administer anesthesia to a woman in labor, the husband looked at the machine and said, "I don't like that so good." "I didn't intend to give it to you," was her sharp reply. The man slunk from the room followed by gales of laughter. When the couple's next baby was due, there were no objections.

For almost half a century, Dr. Edith Eugenie Johnson was tireless and ingenious in bringing excellent medical care to Palo Altans; even more important, her relationship to her patients and their families was generous and empathetic. In 1986, the well-used park across from her home was named in her honor, thus continuing Dr. Johnson's tradition of bringing life to the world. **cc**

Dr. Edith Eugenie Johnson
In 1916, when Dr. Clelia Mosher left Stanford to serve in France, Dr. Johnson replaced her as Chief Medical Advisor to Stanford women.

Emma Kellogg
Humanitarian

b. February 3, 1863, Oakland, California
d. March 7, 1951, Palo Alto
Address: 1061 Bryant Street

Born in Oakland, Emma Kellogg grew up in Redwood City, where her father, one of the earliest commuters to San Francisco, had built a house in 1864. After attending the Young Ladies Seminary in Benicia, a forerunner of Mills College, she lived in San Francisco until 1893, when she moved to Palo Alto.

The Home Kellogg Built at 1061 Bryant

The house Kellogg built on Bryant Street, described as the "oddest, neatest, tastiest house in Palo Alto," was destroyed by fire in 1898. A year later, she built the well-known "sun-bonnet" house on the same site. Both houses are attributed to Bernard Maybeck, a prominent East Bay architect.

Kellogg's renown derives from her interest in problems of the hearing-impaired. Her interest stemmed from the very personal -

she herself was deaf - and broadened to helping others. She founded the "Hard of Hearing Club" on December 4, 1929. The club was dedicated to bettering the life of the hearing-impaired through provision of hearing aids, teaching lip reading and sponsoring social functions. A wider awareness of and sensitivity to the problem was achieved through distribution of information. Financial support was given by the club to Stanford University libraries for purchases of magazines and books relating to the latest scientific research on auditory problems. In 1934, Kellogg donated a subscription of "The Auditory Outlook" to the Palo Alto Library.

By 1937, one hundred and sixty-five clubs, based on Kellogg's model, had been founded. Because of her dedication and caring, Emma Kellogg was named Honorary President of the Club for the rest of her life. In 1944, the name of the club was changed to the Better Hearing League. **cc**

Mary Gallagher Kimura
Businesswoman

b. 1850, Michigan
d. May 3, 1926 , Palo Alto
Address: 206 University Avenue
329 University Avenue
333 Waverley Street
917 Alma Street
Mariposa Building at University - Woman's Exchange
The Perry block - Woman's Exchange

Mary Gallagher Kimura's life story was truly remarkable, especially in the context of the early twentieth century. She was born in Michigan in 1850, and at the age of thirty six she married Jun K. Kimura in Ann Arbor. The couple returned to his family's home in Japan, where, unfortunately, the groom's family rejected his American bride. Alone in Japan, Ms. Kimura taught English in Tokyo for two years.

Around 1886, Mary Kimura found her way to Stanford University where she worked preparing lunches for faculty and students at a building known as Pine Cottage (site of Green Library.) "Mary's Place" became famous on the campus

as did the three year old Japanese orphan, Minnie, whom she adopted.

Minnie eventually became the first Japanese -American graduate of Stanford, earning a degree in education in 1914. The Kimura women moved to Palo Alto in 1900 and lived at various addresses, including 206 University Avenue, 329 University Avenue, 333 Waverley Street and 917 Alma Street. Mary also owned the Woman's Exchange where she sold "pies, cakes, salads, cold meats, and dainties for your dresser, parlor or any part of your home." In 1900 , the Exchange was located in the Mariposa Building at University and in 1902 in the Perry Block.

A 1915 front page report in the Palo Alto Times recounted the standing room only attendance at the marriage of Minnie Kimura to Kiyosue Inui. In 1917, Mary reverted to her maiden name. In addition to being a single mother and one of the many early business women in Palo Alto, Gallagher was a member of the Woman's Club, and was active in her church and other community activities including the library. Mary Gallagher died on May 3, 1926.
dc

Mary Ishbel Lockey
School Founder

b. June 21, 1872, Helena, Montana
d. March 4, 1939, Palo Alto
Address: 1121 Bryant Street
1310 Bryant Street
1020 Bryant Street

Born in Helena, Montana on June 21, 1872, Mary Ishbel Lockey lived in that state through high school. After spending one year in the Froebel-Pestalozzi Schule in Berlin, Lockey returned to enter the normal school in her hometown. She graduated in 1902 from Stanford University where, a popular student, she had helped to found the Alpha Phi sorority. When the Stanford Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa was founded several years after Lockey graduated, she was made a retroactive member.

Ms. Lockey began her career as a teacher of English at Miss Harker's School and at Palo Alto High School. In 1907, at the urging of David Starr Jordan, she founded the Castilleja School at 1121 Bryant Street. The school opened on August 19, 1907 with

14 teachers and 68 students, including boys at the grade school level. Later, Castilleja reverted to an all-female population. In 1910, Lockey purchased most of the school's present site at 1310 Bryant Street and oversaw the construction of the school's first new facilities.

Under Lockey's leadership during the thirties, Castilleja was a highly acclaimed girls school. It was recognized as an institution which provided young women with a solid education rather than as a finishing school. In 1930, Ms. Lockey was chosen as a delegate to the White House Conference for Child Health and Protection. She also was a member of the National Education Association, the National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, American Association of University Women, and Business and Professional Women's Association. In addition, she served once as Treasurer and twice as President of the Pacific Coast Headmistress Association. By the time of her death in 1939, Mary Ishbel Lockey had laid the foundation for an excellent education for young women which continues in 1994. **cc**.

Isabelle Pardee Merriman
Philanthropist

b. unknown
d. June 14, 1920, Palo Alto
Address: 235 Melville Street

Less well known than her builder sister, heiress Sarah Pardee Winchester, Isabelle Pardee Merriman devoted her life to "humane work for man and beast." Her concern for the plight of African-Americans prompted her activism in the NAACP. The welfare of abused and illegitimate children, however, was her greatest concern and earned for her the title "friend of the helpless." She turned her Los Altos house, which had been bought for her by her millionaire sister and which is the oldest structure in that town, into a home for abandoned babies. Moving to Palo Alto around 1907, Ms. Merriman continued her baby haven at 235 Melville. In addition, she became an agent for the California Humane Society.

Her daughter, Marian Merriman Marriott, also lived in Palo Alto at 1307 University Avenue. Following in the footsteps of her philanthropist mother, Marriott, as heir to her Aunt Sarah's fortune, bequeathed her estate to a tuberculosis hospital. True to family tradition, Marriot's house, according to subsequent owner, Kenna Helms, had a door which led nowhere! In contrast to their

exotic building techniques, the Pardee and Merriman women were pragmatic in their use of wealth to create a better life for the less fortunate. **mrf**

Helen McGillivray (Parker)
Humanitarian, Lecturer

b. unknown, Trinity County, California
d. November 25, 1942, Massachusetts
Address: 465 Melville Street

Helen McGillivray was born in Trinity County, California and attended Mills College and Stanford University. A resident of Palo Alto from 1898, McGillivray, a nurse, and Mary K. Maxwell ran a sanitarium known as "The Cabin" at 465 Melville Avenue. This was a cottage hospital and nursing home well-known to Palo Alto and Stanford residents.

Ms. McGillivray was an active member of the Woman's Club, church and community groups. In 1898, McGillivray addressed the Woman's Club on the necessity for a sewer system in Palo Alto. She spoke of the danger menacing the town from the inadequate system of cesspools, many of which were mere holes in the ground. As a result of her talk, a resolution was passed and presented to the city fathers advocating immediate construction of "a proper system of sewers." A prior resolution by the club in 1895 had fallen on deaf ears, but public awareness of health issues and pressure from groups such as the Woman's Club resulted in the passage of a bond issue to install the first underground sewer line in 1899.

In 1905, McGillivray married the Rev. George Parker and accompanied him to his three year post in St. Petersburg, Russia. On her return to the United States, she became a professional lecturer speaking with knowledge, humor, and sympathy on topics ranging from life in a Russia torn by revolution to the toil and pleasure of restoring a two hundred year old farmhouse. Helen McGillivray Parker retired in Massachusetts. **dc**.

Lydia Pearce Mitchell
Community Activist

b. October 24, 1854, Providence, Rhode Island
d. June 18, 1958, Palo Alto
Address: 252 Kingsley Ave.

Born to descendants of early colonists, Lydia Pearce attended a school for girls "run by two English ladies" in a house on Benefit Street in Providence. Although she wanted to attend college, her father would not allow it. After marrying and giving birth to her only child, she and her family moved first to Pasadena and then to Palo Alto in the early 1900's - "because of the educational advantages for my son."

Like many early activists, Lydia Mitchell was a member of the Palo Alto Woman's Club, showing her affection for and interest in the city at a time when pioneers walked on precarious wooden paths along dusty streets and when Old Palo Alto was beyond the pale.

One of the earliest of Mitchell's activities was her participation in the founding of the Fortnightly Music Club. Believing that what the town needed was music, a dozen women met in 1908 in the Kingsley Avenue house, and decided to devote one afternoon every other week to listen to the music of a selected composer. The club, now more sophisticated and co-ed, still exists for the love of music.

The most significant work performed by Ms. Mitchell - both to the city and to herself - was her involvement with the local American Red Cross. Just as Lydia Mitchell stated, "I owe more to the Red Cross than to any other influence in my life," so, too, could the chapter impute much of its model reputation to her. Mitchell was one of its founders in 1914 when it provided aid to the thousands of soldiers and their families stationed here. In twenty five years as managing director, her vision and planning brought the chapter from its humble beginnings to the large organization that it had become by World War II. When the chapter moved into its current headquarters across from the main Palo Alto train station in 1948, city officials named the adjacent street Mitchell Lane in honor of this indispensable volunteer. **mrf**

Julia Morgan
Architect

b. January 20, 1872, San Francisco
d. February 2, 1957, Oakland
Address: 423 Chaucer Street
515 Lytton Avenue
27 University Avenue (MacArthur Park)
117 University Avenue

Julia Morgan, was a woman of firsts: the first woman to receive a degree in Engineering from Berkeley in 1894, the first woman to graduate with an architectural degree from the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, France and the first woman to be certified in the male-dominated field of architecture in the state of California. She was raised in Oakland in an upper-middle class family who believed in the importance of education for daughters as well as sons. Her formative influences were a cousin's husband, Pierre LeBrun, a New York architect who had praised her mathematical and drawing abilities, Sophia Hayden, the first woman to earn a degree in architecture at MIT and the designer of the Women's Building at the Chicago Exposition, and her mother, who unequivocally supported all her endeavors.

Having worked with Bernard Maybeck and John Galen Howard, Morgan could have affiliated herself with an established firm but chose to establish her own office in order to avoid the constant struggle for recognition presented by male colleagues. Morgan had worked in the Howard firm on the master building plan for the University of California at Berkeley. Howard boasted that in Morgan he had "...the best and most talented designer, whom I have to pay almost nothing, as it is a woman." Founded in 1907, in San Francisco, and modeled after a Beaux Arts "atelier" (workshop,) Morgan's office fostered interaction and learning and was a valuable training ground for architects and designers. An associate, Dorothy Wormser Coblentz noted that Morgan "...was a perfectionist and each job was a maximum effort. Nothing was left to chance." Always referred to as "Miss Morgan" by her loyal staff, she regarded them and their children as her family, paying good salaries and aiding them during hard times. Much of her work was done at cost, such as the Ming Quong Home for Young Girls in Oakland, which she designed for Donaldina Cameron. Throughout her career, Morgan was a living embodiment of the women's movement. Independent, well-educated and highly successful, she hired women architects, gave decorative

commissions to aspiring women artists and contributed anonymous financial aid to women students. Morgan's confidence in women was reciprocated when female clients such as Phoebe Apperson Hearst, the YWCA, and Woman's Clubs commissioned buildings.

The twenty years of her life which she devoted to designing and overseeing the construction of the Hearst Castle at San Simeon overshadow the fact that the Morgan atelier was responsible for more than seven hundred projects during the forty-seven years of its existence. Extremely modest, Morgan avoided publicity, believing that the quality of her work spoke for her. Perhaps her reticence can be traced to a 1907 interview given during her first major job, the reconstruction of the earthquake-damaged Fairmont Hotel. Assuming that the five-foot, hundred-pound Morgan was the interior decorator, the reporter gushed: "How you must have reveled in this chance to squeeze dry the loveliest tubes in the whole world of color!" Morgan, standing amidst the scaffolding of this large and complex job, wryly remarked, "I don't think you understand just what my work here has been. The decorative part was...done by a New York firm. ...My work has been all structural."

This renowned architect left her mark on Palo Alto in the form of an elegant, Italianate two-story residence at 423 Chaucer Street built in 1922, a combined residence and physical therapy clinic at 515 Lytton Avenue built in 1910 for Palo Alto's first chiropractor, Margaret C. Davidson, and a noteworthy example of traditional Craftsman design at 27 University Avenue built in 1918 (MacArthur Park Restaurant.) The latter is interesting not only architecturally but also because it is publicly accessible and has played a vital role in Palo Alto history, having served as the nation's first municipally-supported community center.

Julia Morgan
The Morgan atelier was responsible for over seven hundred projects during the forty-seven years of its existence.

Although she had many friends throughout all phases of her life, Morgan never considered marriage. Her commitment was to her career, her associates, and her clients. Julia Morgan did not seek fame, but her legacy is enduring. She best expressed her philosophy

of life when she became the first woman admitted to the Ecole des Beaux Arts: "It was no great thing, but it has taken quite a little effort...a mixture of dislike of giving up some thing attempted and the sense of its being a sort of test...made it seem a thing that had to be won." **mrf**

Dr. Clelia Mosher
Physician

b. December 16, 1863, Albany, N.Y.
d. December 22, 1940, Palo Alto
Address: 1100 Bryant Street
1094 Emerson Street
113 Circle (corner of University)

The first woman to vote in Palo Alto was Clelia Duel Mosher, born on December 16, 1863 in Albany, N.Y. At age twenty five, having saved enough money from working in her own florist shop, she enrolled at Wellesley College to study women's physiology. Due to ill health, she was forced to withdraw in the fall of her sophomore year. In September 1891, she was able to return to school and entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison, chosen for its science curriculum.

While at Wisconsin, Mosher designed a twenty-five question survey dealing with demographic and health information and sexual practices and attitudes. The forty-five Caucasian-American women who participated in the survey were mature, married and upper-middle class. Their candid responses counter the traditional belief that Victorian women were prudish about sexual issues. Although Kinsey would later gain fame for similar research, Ms. Mosher's innovative research remained unacknowledged until its discovery in the Stanford archives by Professor Carl Degler, who published it in 1980.

In 1892, Mosher transferred to Stanford, earning her A.B. in Zoology in 1893. In transferring, Mosher was following her family, who had relocated here. Her move was also encouraged by Mary Smith, an Assistant Professor of Social Science at Stanford, with whom Mosher had developed a friendship at Wellesley. Ms. Mosher went on to earn a Stanford Master's in Physiology in 1894 with a thesis dispelling the belief that men and women breathe differently. One of the first four women appointed to the Stanford faculty, she remained as an in-

structor in the Hygiene Department until 1896.

In October 1896, Mosher entered Johns Hopkins Medical School, where she began her study of menstrual cycles. At that time, menstruation was regarded as a disease requiring bed rest rather than as a natural bodily function. Mosher proposed that negative psychic and social expectations caused women to feel ill at menses. She urged women to eat simply, dress in non-restrictive clothing, and exercise regularly to alleviate menstrual discomfort.

After receiving her medical degree in 1900, Dr. Mosher was an assistant to Dr. Howard Kelly, a Baltimore gynecologist. She abandoned her plan to train as a gynecological surgeon when Dr. Kelly informed her that no man would be willing to work as a surgical assistant under a woman. Returning to Palo Alto in 1901, Dr. Mosher began a private practice in general medicine at 113 Circle. To supplement her income, she taught physiology at Miss Harker's School, and, between 1903 and 1905, she served as a special assistant to the Palo Alto Health Department. While working for the health department, Mosher coedited a report on the typhoid epidemic.

Dr. Mosher, in 1910, gave up her private practice, as it was not financially successful. One of the reasons for this lack of success was the fact that women physicians were not accepted unless they were in the more "feminine" specialties of obstetrics and pediatrics. That year, she returned to Stanford as Medical Advisor to Women and Director of Roble Gymnasium. Developing a large library for her students on the subjects of nutrition, health, anatomy, and feminist teachings, she taught classes which were often the first information on sexuality to which these Victorian women were exposed. Mosher encouraged women students to participate in sports and organized their first athletic matches with Berkeley. She also resumed her study of menstruation and designed a set of exercises to alleviate menstrual pain by strengthening abdominal muscles.

Dr. Clelia Mosher

Mosher designed a survey dealing with demographic and health information and sexual practices and attitudes.

Dr. Mosher visited women's colleges on the East Coast promoting her exercises known as "moshers." Much of her research at this time

is contained in her book, Personal Hygiene for Women, which ran into five editions in America and England. By 1916, Clelia Duel Mosher was an Assistant Professor of Personal Hygiene and had gained an international reputation for her scholarly work and teaching.

As a result of her prominence, Dr. Mosher was asked in 1917 to serve in the Red Cross war effort in France as Medical Investigator for Children's Relief. She did so until 1919, when she became the Associate Medical Director of the Bureau of Refugees and Relief. Returning to Stanford in 1922, Dr. Mosher was made an associate professor and a full professor in 1928, one year before her mandatory retirement at age 65. Mosher's career at Stanford, despite her outstanding credentials, was typical of women professors at that university: regarded as teachers for women students and not as full-fledged academics, they were recognized, in the form of promotion, often only shortly before retirement.

A noticeable figure on campus because of her "uniform" of an old-fashioned, long-skirted black suit, Mosher's personal life was lonely and difficult. She strove to use the emerging "objective" fields of social science to prove women's equality to men. In addition to teaching, she conducted pioneering research into menstruation, women's breathing patterns, sexuality, and strength, concluding that women were, for their size, no weaker than men. Clelia Duel Mosher's life and research were an affirmation of women's capabilities and potential. **cc**

Harriet Blanchard Mundy
Environmentalist

b. 1906, Montclair, N.J.
d. August 21, 1991, Kennett Square, Pa.
Address: 757 Tennyson Avenue

Long before environmentalism was a cause bandied about by oil companies and politicians, Harriet Mundy was involved in preserving the baylands. Born in Montclair, New Jersey, she graduated from Vassar College and became a social worker in New York City.

From 1949 until 1977, she lived in Palo Alto and fought to preserve the marshlands. An avid birder, Ms. Mundy was a frequent lecturer on birding. The story of her involvement with the baylands runs parallel with increased public debate about development versus

preservation as the appropriate use of this valuable natural resource.

In the nineteenth century, San Francisco Bay was bordered by extensive salt marshes. In the Palo Alto area, the marshes extended slightly to the west of the present Bayshore Freeway. An embarcadero, or wharf, was constructed at the edge of the marsh before California was a state. Known as Wilson's landing in the 1870's, it was used to ship hay and produce to markets in San Francisco. All the surrounding marsh was subject to tidal action and drained by San Francisquito Creek, Mayfield Slough and Charleston Slough. In 1921, with the encouragement of Mary Denison Wilt Thomas, one of the first female council members, the City of Palo Alto purchased forty acres of baylands. By 1960, approximately one thousand eight hundred and eighty acres had been purchased by the City. From the early thirties, what to do with the baylands became a question of "to dredge or not to dredge" or how best to preserve a local treasure, and Mundy's opinions were heard clearly in the fray.

Most of us take the marshes, bird nesting sites, and shell-encrusted trails of the baylands for granted. It was not always so, and Harriet Mundy deserves credit for providing us with a natural oasis that might well have fallen prey to developers, rather than to more natural predators. In 1982, part of this oasis was named in honor of Harriet Blanchard Mundy. **mrf**

Dorothy Nichols
Journalist

b. October 13, 1903, Pasadena
d. October 10, 1990, Palo Alto
Address: 1326 Emerson Street

When the Grande Dame of Bay Area arts critics came to Palo Alto in 1915, there were only four cultural programs a year on the Peninsula. Dorothy Nichols's interest in drama was sparked by her father, principal of the high school, who wrote and put on plays. That spark was ignited when, as a cub reporter, for the Stanford Daily, she covered organ recitals and the campus library and art gallery. Forced to leave Stanford after her freshman year due to severe anemia, Nichols began covering crime for the San Jose Mercury News and science

for the San Francisco Chronicle. Returning to arts coverage, she wrote for The Peninsula Times Tribune, the San Francisco Chronicle, the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Shakespeare Quarterly during a career spanning sixty-five years.

Her talent and lengthy career ensured many firsts: from the first season of the San Francisco Opera to the Bach Festival in Carmel to the first serious critique of the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. A collection of Nichols's Ashland Festival reviews has been assembled in a two-volume study on the history of that event. Nichols also lectured at the festival on Shakespeare . Never lacking in critical comment, but always objective, generous, and encouraging, her reviews covered unknowns as well as luminaries such as Iturbe, Robeson, Menuhin, and Casadesus. A wealthy arts patron once thanked Ms. Nichols for being good to her "boy" in a review. The "boy" was the young Isaac Stern.

Nichols participated in and was a charter member of CAPA. Always hampered by poor health, she was able to fulfill the grueling schedule of a critic based on her true caring for the arts and the community. It is simplistic to think of Nichols as merely a reporter on small town cultural events. She made a significant contribution to journalism as well as a major contribution to gaining recognition for local art endeavors.

Indeed, local recognition came to Dorothy Nichols first, in 1970, when the American Association of University Women honored her for her contributions to the cultural life of Palo Alto and again, in 1983, when she received the Paul Emerson Award from the Council for the Arts Palo Alto and Mid Peninsula (CAPA) for her role as a critic, playwright, and lecturer. In 1984, the Children's Theater performed Nichols adaptation of "Queen Zixi of Ix." In reminiscing about the post-performance reception held in the Secret Garden, CAPA activist Dolly Crane recalls the most meaningful tribute of all which came from a small girl seeking Ms. Nichols' autograph: "This is the bestest play I'll ever know." Crane also notes that Lucy Stern's idea to build a Community Theater was based on a suggestion by Dorothy Nichols. In 1994, Palo Alto can claim a vast array of cultural events - a claim nurtured by this ever supportive critic of the arts. **mrf**.

Kathleen Thompson Norris
Author

b. July 16, 1880, San Francisco
d. January 18, 1966, San Francisco
Address: 1247 Cowper Street, "La Casa Abierta"
1650 Waverley Street

Kathleen Norris, the "matriarch of San Francisco's royal family of literature" and the "grande dame of magazine heart-tuggers," was a prolific writer who produced eighty-eight novels, an autobiography, two thousand newspaper and magazine articles, and three hundred short stories, most of them written in Palo Alto, where she lived for more than thirty years. Although Norris stated, "I certainly don't regard myself as a great literary light," her novels were read by millions, giving her a popularity comparable to a Danielle Steele. Norris's work was moral in tone, sentimental, and supplied with happy endings. It carried a fantasy message to three generations of American women: marriage was life's greatest adventure. Collier's Magazine, realizing their appeal, paid Norris $50,000.00 per serialized novel - quite a sum in 1927. About her ability to turn out a novel every six months, Norris commented, "I give my work everything I have. I put my best into it. It is real to me, and the people and their problems are real." Hard-working women wrote of their problems and were personally answered by the author; many of her plots were culled from this fan mail.

Born into humble surroundings, Kathleen Thompson and her five siblings were orphaned when she was nineteen years old. For eight years, she was both parent and breadwinner, working as a sales girl, hardware store employee, library attendant, and newspaper reporter. In 1908, Thompson married the novelist Charles Norris, brother of noted novelist, Frank Norris. Her first novel, Mother, written for a contest, was published in 1911 and became one of the most talked-about books of the day. Among her novels are The Heart of Rachel (1916), Certain People of Importance (1922), Manhattan Love Song, Mink Coat (1946), and Through a Glass Darkly (1957).

Norris's life in Palo Alto truly lived up to the name of her gracious 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival style house, built by Birge Clark and named "La Casa Abierta." In this "open house", Kathleen, Charles and their son, Frank entertained friends and famous people, such as Harpo Marx and Herbert Hoover. After her husband's death in 1947, Norris sold "Abierta" but continued living

in Palo Alto, renting a home at 1650 Waverley Street from 1948 to 1958. Although writing was her profession, she was also a popular speaker on topics including pacifism, free speech and more active participation by women in politics. She had a talk show on radio station KEEN. Her talks reflected her beliefs as a Catholic, Democrat, prohibitionist, and pacifist. In 1949, she embarked on an acting career in "White-Oaks of Jalna", a Palo Alto Community Theater production. That same year, Norris was appointed by former President Herbert Hoover to the Citizens' Committee for Reorganization of the Federal Government, a group whose purpose was to disseminate information on the governmental "streamlining" program of the Hoover Commission.

Characteristically playing down the role of hard work, talent, and creativity, Kathleen Thompson Norris described her life, in its progression from a "little shanty on Hyde Street" to national acclaim as a successful writer, as simply "the American Way." **mrf**

Elizabeth Norton
Painter, Sculptor, Printmaker

b. 1887, Chicago, Illinois
d. 1985, Palo Alto
Address: 353 Lowell Avenue
668 Ramona St. (Pacific Art League of Palo Alto)

As Elizabeth Norton neared her 100th birthday, she, at last, received the recognition she was due for a life lived in and for art. In 1984, the Palo Alto Art Club, of which Norton was a founder in 1921, named one of its two galleries in her honor. The young, single woman and her mother arrived in 1919 from New York City, where she had a studio next to Carnegie Hall and had already given her first show. In Palo Alto, Norton refined her printmaking technique and the animal paintings and sculpture for which she was noted.

As a child, Norton had no interest in playing with dolls; she preferred live things - whether crickets, lizards, dogs or cats. As an artist, she combined her two favorite things, art and animals. Live zoo animals were often her subjects, and so familiar was she to zoo keepers that she was allowed to set up her easel inside the crowd barrier. Norton's formal education was at the Art Institute in Chicago and at the Art Students' League in New York.

At the age of 93, Norton, although legally blind, took up ceramics at the Peninsula Center for the Blind so that she could make use of her talents. Shortly before her death, she described 1920 Palo Alto as a "...small rural area...Except for Stanford - where my sister lived on the campus - it was sort of culturally deprived. The club was our cultural oasis." That same year, Norton assisted in the design and building of her charming old brown shingle house, still standing today on Lowell Avenue.

Norton's prints are in the collections of at least twenty prestigious museums, schools and libraries around the nation including the Smithsonian Institute, The Library of Congress and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Two of Ms. Norton's bronzes are displayed in the Hoover Library at Stanford. Her bronze of "Girl and Dog" was, for years, in the foyer of the Junior Museum of Palo Alto. **pfb**

Josephine Nagle O'Hara
Director of the Palo Alto Junior Museum

b. 1885, Oakland, Ca.
d. February 13, 1980, Palo Alto, Ca.
Address: 119 Byron Street

Josephine Nagle, born in Oakland, moved to England with her mother and three siblings when her father died in 1891. After her education in England and after attending the Froebel Institute, she directed a private school in London for ten years. Returning to California at the end of World War I to marry John O'Hara, she moved to Palo Alto in 1920, attracted by its reputation as an educational center.

Ms. O'Hara had become interested in recreational and educational opportunities offered by children's museums in New York and Boston. In 1933, she proposed to the recreation department that a children's museum be started. At that time, O'Hara was a member of The Leisure Time Committee which officially started the Palo Alto Junior Museum in 1934. Volunteer help from the community was the sole financial support. She was the director from its inception until her retirement on June 30, 1950. Much of the credit for the success of the museum is due this dedicated and innovative woman. The stated purpose of the museum was "...that the record of the past may help Palo Alto children to look forward, with confidence and understanding, to a better world of their own making...," but the reason for its founding was children.

O'Hara's love of people and animals and her interest in the world around her were infectious and enabled her to sustain the museum project through the depression years and the struggle for recognition. The first museum of its kind in the United States, it was originally housed in the public library, then in the old Mayfield school , and later in the basement of The Children's Theatre before two 1941 grants made possible the construction of its present building and a science wing. In 1943, the museum was made part of the Recreation Department of the City of Palo Alto.

Childless herself, O'Hara affected the lives of innumerable Palo Alto children both through the educational opportunities offered at the museum and its outreach programs in the schools. In her sixteen years as director, she encouraged young people along creative paths of discovery and inspired them to pursue hobbies and careers in science and art. Even after her retirement, O'Hara corresponded and visited with the students and children she had influenced. Palo Alto's children were and continue to be Josephine O'Hara's children. **mrf**.

Lucile Salter Packard
Philanthropist

b. July 30, 1914, San Francisco
d. May 30, 1987
Address: 376 Addison St.

Lucile Salter, familiarly known as Lu, grew up in San Francisco and graduated from Sacred Heart Convent. Her long association with Stanford University began in 1931 when, on her second try, she gained admission to Stanford in an era when women were a minority on the Farm. While a student, Ms. Salter worked at the Children's Hospital as a volunteer - another life-long affiliation. During her sophomore year as an English major, she met David Packard in the kitchen of her sorority house - where he had a student job, washing dishes.

After her graduation from Stanford in 1935 and her marriage to David Packard in 1938, Lucille and her husband rented an apartment in a cottage at 376 Addison Street. There she provided financial support for her husband, who was forming his fledgling Hewlitt-Packard Company, by working days as secretary to Stanford Registrar Pierce Mitchell and evenings as the company's bookkeeper. From modest

beginnings, the company became a billion dollar concern and from student volunteer, Lucile Salter Packard became an extraordinary benefactor.

The philanthropy for which she is best know is her seventy million dollar endowment of the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital. Similar generosity marked her fifty million dollar donation to the creation of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the fulfillment of her daughter's idea.

Lucile Packard was not simply a wealthy woman who contributed her money wisely; she was the heart and soul behind the Packard Foundation and was intimately involved with her charitable projects. She was a genuine, down-to-earth woman who cared for and was concerned about the welfare of people. While improving the lot of thousands of children and adults, she provided a model of how to live a gracious, caring, and productive life. **mrf**

Alice Locke Park
Suffragist

b. February 2, 1861, Boston, Massachusetts
d. October 17, 1961
Address: 611 Gilman
510 Hamilton Street

Following in the footsteps of her cousin, Quaker suffragist Lucretia Mott, Alice Locke devoted her life to the causes of women's suffrage, feminism, pacifism, human rights, environmentalism, and a variety of community issues. After receiving a teaching credential at the Rhode Island Normal School in 1879, Ms. Locke taught there and in Massachusetts for four years. She married Dean William Park, a mining engineer, and moved around the country with him and their two children, Harriet and Carlton, between 1884 and 1893. The family settled in San Francisco and remained there until 1906. After their home was burned out in the earthquake, the Parks relocated to Palo Alto where the children attended Stanford. Mr. Park died in an accident in 1909.

Alice Park's devotion to political activism sealed her fame in Palo Alto and throughout the world. Like most local activists of that time, she was a member of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. In 1898, she protested Jane Stanford's establishment of a female quota for women at that university. Her Palo Alto home became a clearing-house for the distribution of news stories, pam-

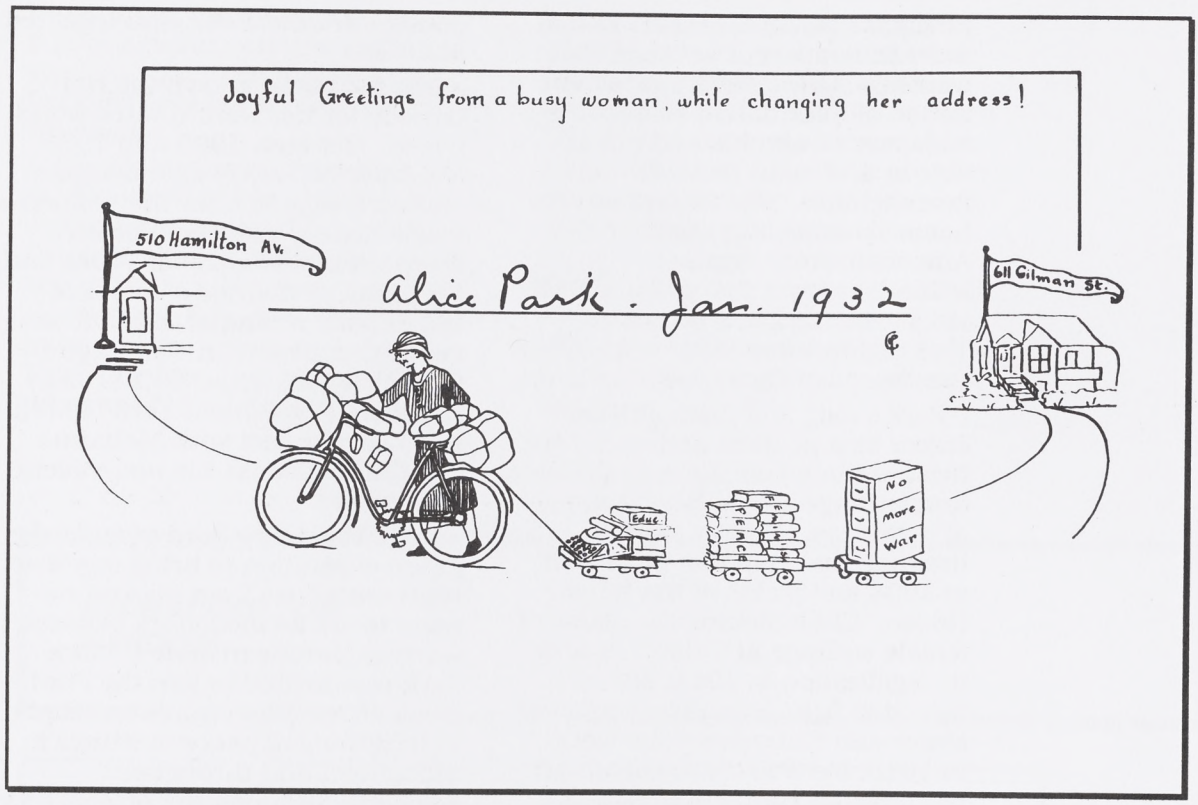
phlets, copies of speeches, and articles in support of pacifism and women's rights. Park's dissemination of information on these issues was invaluable and remarkable in an era far removed from fax machines. She advertised her home as a meeting place for the American Union Against Militarism, a pacifist group which aided conscientious objectors. This organization later evolved into the American Civil Liberties Union.

Park's long and distinguished career as a political and social activist began when she attended her first suffrage convention at the age of seventeen. She joined the International Feminist Movement in 1894 and picketed the White House. Championing the cause of female suffrage in California until its legalization in 1911, she continued to fight for suffrage in other states and throughout the world. In 1913, Ms. Park was appointed by Governor Hiram Johnson as a delegate to and speaker at an international feminist congress in Hungary. A one-woman Madison Avenue firm, Park publicized women's struggle for the vote world-wide - making speeches, writing articles, wearing "Votes for Women" buttons, and flying a pro-suffrage banner outside her home and from hotel windows, as well as leaving a paper trail of documents and artifacts which she donated to libraries throughout the nation. In other areas of women's and children's rights, Park campaigned for the six hour work day, labor unionism, and anti-child-labor laws. Her belief that women should be economically independent from their husbands led to her support of birth control, sex education in schools, and legalized abortion.

Ms. Park was known internationally for her work toward world peace. Between 1906 and 1933, she traveled widely as a delegate and spokesperson for the Women's Peace Society and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. A charter member of WILPF, she attended International Peace Congresses at The Hague (1913,) Washington, D.C. (1924,) Duisberg (1927,) and York (1927.) In 1926, she met with Mahatma Gandhi to discuss his non-violent philosophy.

In 1915, Henry Ford organized a peace expedition to bring together representatives from neutral nations to act as mediators between warring European states. Alice Park was invited to join the Ford Peace Ship. The voyage resulted in hundreds of peace meetings in Stockholm and throughout Sweden. Although the project was deemed a failure by the American press, these widespread public demonstrations may have contributed to Sweden's neutrality during the war. After the voyage ended, Park remained in Europe speaking about the peace movement.

In protest of the Unitarian Church's failure to oppose American entry into World War I, Park renounced her membership and, in 1917, joined the Socialist Party. While touring the West speaking in support of conscientious objectors, she became aware of the need for prison reform. This awareness led her to organize a California-based group dedicated to prisoner relief work throughout the nation.



Alice Locke Park

Park's most widely published article was entitled "Disarm Christmas"-written in 1914

Park's strongly held pacifist beliefs were shared by many intellectuals, particularly in the East, but led to some disparagement in Palo Alto. Although retired Stanford President David Starr Jordan and his wife Jessie Knight Jordan were part of the pacifist effort, war fever swept through the local population culminating in a 1918 city council ordinance against "seditious utterances." Post-war hostility against freeing conscientious objectors led to an accusation that Alice Park's home was "a center of sedition." While history textbooks provide students with copious information about wars and their heroes, little is said of women like Alice Park who believed that war is not the answer and who heroically defended an individual's right to protest.

A prolific writer, Alice Locke Park composed pamphlets on a variety of subjects and wrote a newspaper column carried by over six hundred papers. In addition, she authored two pieces of California state legislation. Enacted in 1909, The California Bird and Arbor Day Act legislated the protection of trees and birds and established a day for school children to be instructed in these environmental issues. A second major bill, passed in 1913, ensured equal guardianship of minor children to both parents. Under prior law, mothers had no rights over their children and men possessed com-

plete legal control - even insofar as selling their unborn children. Park's most widely published article was entitled "Disarm Christmas." Written in 1914, it criticized the practice of giving toy weapons to children as presents.

Were Alice Locke Park alive today she might be labeled "politically correct." Her beliefs, however, were unusual in her lifetime, strongly held, and ardently practiced. **cc**

Lucy H. Fletcher and Eleanor Brooks Pearson
School Founders

b. circa 1865
d. unknown
Address: 364 Kingsley Avenue(Pearson residence)
374 Kingsley Avenue(Fletcher residence)
319 Kingsley Avenue
1121 Bryant Street

Lucy Fletcher and Eleanor Brooks Pearson, two young college graduates, were lured, in the summer of 1891, to the Stanford campus by President David Starr Jordan for the purpose of establishing a girl's preparatory school near the University. As originally conceived by the Stanfords, the university was to have a full complement of kindergartens and secondary schools. Buildings, however, were in short supply, even housing for the professors. Only one building was available on Alpine Road, in the foothills of the Stanford estate which, according to Orrin Elliott, was "an unoccupied, falling-to-pieces, reputedly ghost-haunted farmhouse." The adventurous young women named it Adelante Villa. While waiting for their first students, they boarded college students and professors. One boarder was Herbert Hoover, who was studying for his entrance exam to the opening class of the university.

By 1892, the women relocated their school to 319 Kingsley Avenue and renamed it Castilleja Hall, the Spanish word for the crimson wildflower, Indian paint brush. In its second year, the school boasted two divisions - a primary school for children under 12 and a girls preparatory school - with a total enrollment of twenty six children. Pearson was the Principal of Castilleja Hall from 1891 to 1898. By 1898, neither Fletcher nor Pearson was affiliated with the school with Fletcher having moved back East to Woodstock, N.Y. and Pearson employed as an Instructor of Rhetoric

at Stanford. Anne Earl Peck, the mother of Judge Isabel Peck Charles, was the Principal in that year. The school building was relocated to 1121 Bryant Street and, by 1901, Castilleja Hall ceased operating. At that time, Louise Angell bought the building and enlarged it for its new occupant, Catherine Harker.

To understand the daring and excitement which these pioneer educators felt in establishing Castilleja Hall, one can turn to Pearson's own words: "...the University, that fabulous gold mine in the early days, which was believed to stand ready to hand out education, places, money, fairy chances of all kinds, with a real fairy godfather and godmother standing ready to wave the wand for every Cinderella and hand out a ring for every Aladdin. You cannot, any of you, imagine the rosy mist that floats around it all in those magic two years before the Senator died."**mrf**

Cornelia L. Place
Educator, Businesswoman, Politician

b. 1858, Oswego, New York
d. April 1941, Carmel, Ca.
Address: 473 Embarcadero Road
130 University Avenue

One of the most remarkable women to live in Palo Alto in terms of personal accomplishments and contributions to the city is also one of the least known. Cornelia L. Place had enjoyed a notable career as a professor at Oberlin College and as the Superintendent of Schools in St. Paul, Minnesota before relocating to Palo Alto in 1900.

Residing at 473 Embarcadero Road with her son, a local dentist, and his wife, Place continued her affiliation with education as the Head of Teacher Training at San Jose Normal School. Soon, however, she embarked upon a new career - real estate - opening her own office at 130 University Avenue. Ms. Place then became a founder and partner in the firm of Place, Brewer and Clark. Her membership in that firm was bought out in January 1925 by M. H. Hare. Hare, Brewer, and Clark ultimately became the well-known company of Hare, Brewer, and Kelly.

Although this enterprising woman had changed professions from education to real estate, she did not completely abandon her first area of expertise. In 1909, Place distinguished herself by becoming the first woman to be

elected to the Palo Alto School Board. This feat was especially notable as women had not yet achieved suffrage. Serving until 1916, Place was an outspoken advocate for child care at a time when this was an option only for the wealthy. In addition, she was active in organizing a unified PTA which was established in Palo Alto in 1913 by Mary Greene.

An innovative and accomplished woman in many respects, Cornelia Place deserves special recognition for her part in paving the way for the twenty-one women who have subsequently served on the Palo Alto School Board. **mrf**.

Hazel Glaister Robertson
Founder of the Palo Alto Children's Theatre

b. 1903, Sonoma, Ca.
d. November 1, 1983, Menlo Park
Address: 619 Homer Avenue

A native Californian, Hazel Glaister Robertson was educated in Sonoma and later, in San Jose, where she was a member of the last class to graduate from the College of the Pacific before it removed to Stockton. Robertson followed the college to its new campus where she was awarded her master's degree in 1926. Having specialized in English and drama, she worked in the drama and speech departments in several San Joaquin Valley schools. Here, she began experimenting with her unorthodox educational techniques based on the concept that learning can be stimulated, handicaps overcome, and social adjustments made through theater produced by and for children. Robertson's next job, as supervisor for the Taft School System, was an innovative teacher's delight as there were no district financial constraints.

Enticed to Palo Alto by the rumor that there was an opening for her type of teaching, Robertson was disappointed to find the reality different. Her presentation was so convincing, however, that she was invited to return in December 1932 without a salary but with free range to fulfill her dreams of a children's theater group at the old Community Center, 27 University Avenue. From an initial small group of children, the theater became a local treasure and gained national and international acclaim. Robertson was director of The Children's Theatre from 1932 until her retirement in March 1953.

Sponsored at the outset by the recreation department and aided by the Women's Service League and other volunteer organizations, the group, consisting of Robertson and forty-seven young stars, put on their first show, "The Perfect Gift" in 1933 with the Mayor's Committee on Unemployment and Relief as the audience. Success soon made separate facilities necessary and a Children's Theatre Wing was constructed at the Community Center with funding from Lucie Stern. The inaugural show in the 208-seat theater was "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and was held in January 1937.

The Children's Theatre was unique not only in its use of "purposeful recreation" for education but also because it was the nation's only municipal group operating on tax money, twelve months a year, and housed in its own building. During Robertson's tenure, the theater company put on an average of twenty-four productions annually, produced films and radio dramas, and performed in San Francisco studios in the early days of television. Recognition of the group in the New York Times and other major publications, brought an avalanche of visitors and queries from twenty-one states and several foreign nations seeking advice on how to establish similar programs.

Hazel Glaister Robertson's career encompassed more than directing The Children's Theatre. In 1940, she co-authored a classic text on Children and the Theater. After resigning as director, Robertson spent four years traveling throughout the Middle East as a consultant for a University of Syracuse project dealing with health, communication, and education issues. She was a pioneer and authority on audio-visual education and educational film-making and a lecturer at universities and symposia.

Generations of children associated with The Children's Theatre never met Hazel Robertson but all benefit from her philosophy and dedication. She believed that "The complexities of twentieth century life demand much from the growing child..." and that a children's theater could condition children for these complexities by providing "...a modern laboratory of simplified situations as they unfold during a theater production." Inspiration, enthusiasm, and a gift for working with children and adults enabled Hazel Glaister Robertson to make The Children's Theatre a symbol of Palo Alto's exceptional quality.
mrf

Pearl S. Shreve
Community Activist

b. 1883
d. September 10, 1956, Palo Alto
Address: 1510 California Avenue

For nearly half a century, Pearl Shreve was a civic and educational leader in Palo Alto. Her family home in the old town of Mayfield was one of the early residences in College Terrace.

Ms. Shreve was instrumental in the building of the new and larger Mayfield school which replaced the original Mayfield school at Ash Street and Sherman Avenue. Like many women who were ultimately elected to public office, Shreve's initial involvement was with the Mayfield PTA, of which she was a charter member. Her greatest public service was her tenure on the Palo Alto Board of Education which was the longest of any board member - totaling twenty four years.

By 1938, Pearl Shreve was one of a three woman majority serving on the Board of Education. One of the first measures this triumvirate supported was the enactment of a measure guaranteeing that married women would no longer be discriminated against in gaining employment as teachers. Shreve resigned from the school board in 1947 "to make way for younger citizens."

She participated in the founding of the Auxiliary to the Palo Alto Hospital and served, for many years, on the Palo Alto Library Committee. Volunteerism is a high art in our city and Pearl Shreve was an early master of that art. **mrf**

Frances Norris Rand Smith
Architectural Artist, Author, Authority On The California Missions

b. 1873, Manitowoc, Wisconsin
d. February 15, 1938
Address: 1335 Cowper Street
1033 Bryant Street

Frances Rand Smith came to Stanford as an undergraduate in 1893, studying architecture under Prof. A. B. Clark. She settled in Palo Alto upon her marriage in 1896. Interested in art since childhood although told that she had no talent, Smith honed her mechanical drawing skills while working in Stanford's engineering department. In order to coordinate raising a family of four with her interest in architecture, Smith began to focus in 1908 on a little heralded commodity, the Spanish Architecture of California.

Her knowledge and collection of materials on the California missions ultimately drew the attention of the California Historical Survey Commission which authorized her in 1917 to produce a series of architectural and historical studies. Library resources were a component in her research but most of her material was garnered by personally visiting mission sites where she interviewed priests, old residents, and caretakers and studied and translated documents in the mission archives. Camping out for a month with her family at the Carmel mission, she discovered the sites of two churches precedent to the one now standing.

The Architectural History of Mission San Carlos Borromeo, published in 1921 was chosen by Smith as the first volume because of the mission's significance as the burial place of Father Junipero Serra, founder of the California missions. Her subsequent books were The Spanish Missions of California (1924,) The Burial Place of Father Junipero Serra (1924,) and The Mission of San Antonio de Padua of California (1932.) Smith's scholarship was of the highest order, with exacting sketches of architectural features, beautiful photography, and quotations from original sources. Frances Rand Smith's work was the product of years of painstaking research, patient labor, and a realization of the importance of mission history and architecture. She was writing a history of Palo Alto when she died in 1938. **em**

Mary Roberts Smith (Coolidge)
Professor

b. October 28, 1860, Kingsbury, Indiana
d. unknown
Address: 1146 Waverley Street
430 Kingsley Street

Mary Roberts Smith, was an Assistant and Associate Professor of Social Sciences at Stanford from 1894 - 1904. She received a Ph.B. from Cornell in 1880, an M.S. in 1882, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford in 1896. During her years as an Instructor of Economics at Wellesley - 1886 to 1890 - she met and befriended Clelia Duel Mosher.

Her teaching, writing, and lecturing concerned social and economic problems and subjects related to women. Some of Smith's Stanford research, done in collaboration with her first husband, was aimed at improving the convenience and efficiency of women's domestic work. The "drudgery" of housewives which Smith sought to alleviate was an important issue in the women's movement at that time as it was generally believed that women were more suited than men to boring chores. Some men, such as Professor Ross of Stanford, acknowledged the importance of Smith's work: "The housekeeper has the right to simplify her housekeeping so that the home may be the servant to the happiness of its inmates and not oblige the mistress to be its slave." Smith's desire to free women from household chores may not have been a glamorous component of the women's movement, but, interestingly enough, it is a goal still being pondered by contemporary women who juggle careers and families.

As a member of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto, Professor Smith promoted the development of the first Palo Alto Library and was President of the first Board of Trustees when the library became a city facility. In addition, she directed Phoebe Apperson Hearst's Settlement House in San Francisco, was President of the California Civic League of Women, and a member of the State Board of Education. Smith is well known for writing the music for "Hail, Stanford, Hail."

In 1904, Professor Smith, in a move unusual for the times, divorced. She remarried in 1906 moving ultimately to Berkeley where she continued her professional work on sociology and economics, concentrating on Southwest Indian studies. Mary Roberts Coolidge did not lose interest in the feminist movement after suffrage was attained in 1911. Realizing that further re-

forms were needed, she published a book in 1913 entitled Why Women Are So in which she cogently argued that "...sex traditions rather than innate sex character have produced what is called feminine as distinguished from womanly behavior."

A woman of unflagging energy and eclectic intellectual pursuits, Coolidge received a Litt. D. from Mills College at the age of sixty-six. **mrf**.

Maria Louisa Soto (Copinger, Greer) "Californiana" Land Owner

b. 1819, Santa Clara County
d. unknown
Address: Rancho Rinconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito

Maria Louisa Soto's parents, Rafael Soto and Maria Antonio Mesa were second and third generation "Californios" respectively. Her paternal grandparents, Ignacio de Soto and his wife, Barbara as well as her maternal great grandparents were members of the de Anza expedition which founded San Francisco in 1775. Ignacio and Barbara Soto were later sent to San Jose as part of the second group of permanent settlers there.

Rafael Soto, the son of Ignacio and Barbara, was born in San Jose on April 17, 1789 and married Maria Antonia Mesa in 1819. He was given Rancho Rinconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito by Governor Alvarado in 1835 but died before officially gaining title to the two thousand two-hundred acre rancho. After much difficulty, entailing a trip by horseback to Monterey to register the claim, his widow, Maria Antonio Mesa de Soto was granted title to the land in 1841 by Governor Alvarado. The Sotos' house on Middlefield Road just north of Oregon Expressway (near Jordan Junior High School) was large enough to shelter their ten children and to provide the renowned rancho hospitality.

One such gala was the 1839 wedding celebration of their oldest daughter, Maria Louisa, who married John Coppinger on February 23, 1839 and set up house on her husband's twelve thousand acre grant, Rancho Canada de Raimundo in Woodside. Coppinger died in 1847 and the pregnant Maria Louisa Soto Coppinger returned to her parents' home in Palo Alto.

In 1850, the chance arrival of Captain John Greer in Palo Alto changed Ms. Coppinger's life. John Lucas Greer, a forty-two year old Irish sea captain, was exploring the Bay when he sailed up San Francisquito Creek. Deciding to settle in the area, he rented some land from the widow and heiress of two ranchos and, ultimately, charmed by both the area and its inhabitants, he married his landlady making her Maria Louisa Soto Coppinger Greer. Married in the Carmel mission, the Greers moved to the Woodside rancho from 1850 to 1869 - raising three daughters and two sons. Nostalgic about her Spanish heritage, Ms. Greer brought cuttings from the mission to Woodside of the pink Rose of Castile which the mission fathers had brought from Spain seventy-five years before. The roses flourished.

Maria Louisa Soto
Her parents, Rafael Soto and Maria Antonio Mesa were second and third generation "Californios" respectively.

After California became a state in 1850, the claim of Rafael Soto's heirs to their Palo Alto rancho was rejected by the United States authorities. At some time during the 1850's, Capt. Greer met Thomas and Henry Seale, two San Francisco contractors and agreed to cede one half of the rancho if the Seales could obtain clear title for the Sotos.

As was customary for the times, Capt. Greer and not his wife was made administrator of the Soto estate in 1852.

In the 1860's, the Greers moved back to Palo Alto and built a twenty-two room house at 353 Churchill Avenue. In 1867, because of another land disagreement, the huge house was rolled on logs to an undisputed sixty acre site at the present Town and Country Village. Maria Louisa again brought clippings of her favorite roses. The roses flourished.

Maria Louisa's house became the social center of the area with week-long parties featuring dances and barbecues. The Soto heirs finally received the United States patent to their rancho in 1870 and

the Seale brothers were given almost fourteen hundred acres for services rendered. The gradual diminution of acreage belonging to "Californios" was typical of the times. Difficulty in obtaining clear title because of vague land descriptions and because of an inability to manipulate the system as shrewdly as white settlers put the original rancho owners at a great disadvantage.

By 1867, with Leland Stanford providing the finances and Timothy Hopkins the expertise, approximately seven hundred acres of land were purchased from Henry Seale and forty acres from the Greers for the university town of Palo Alto. By 1945, when the ninety-three year old Lucas Greer, son of Maria Louisa and Capt. Greer, died, the Soto family owned forty-four and one half acres in Palo Alto and sixty acres in Woodside. The twenty-two room house was demolished in the name of progress. No descendants of the Rose of Castile survived.

mrf.

Jane Lathrop Stanford
College Founder

b. August 25,1828, Albany, N.Y.
d. February 28, 1905, Honolulu, Hawaii
Address: Demolished in 1965
Stanford University

Jane Eliza Lathrop, the favorite of the six children of an established merchant, received a traditional upbringing in Albany, New York. After elementary school, she spent a year at the Albany Female Academy. Marrying an enterprising neighbor, Leland Stanford, in 1850, Ms. Stanford persuaded him, within five years, to make California their permanent home. Industries, such as the building of the railroads turned an enterprising neighbor into a wealthy magnate and a politically important figure. Ms. Stanford's married life was characterized by philanthropies such as the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association in San Francisco and an active social life as the wife of the Governor, the industrialist, the gentleman farmer, and the Senator.

While on a European tour in 1884, the Stanford's fifteen year old son, Leland Jr., died of typhoid. In anguish over the death of their only child, Jane and Leland decided to found a university in his honor. The Stanford's dream saw fruition in October 1891 when, still under construction, The Leland Stanford Junior University convened its first

classes. The existence of the fledgling university was threatened, however, when Senator Stanford died in June 1893 leaving Ms. Stanford an overwhelming series of financial problems. It was at this precarious moment that Jane Lathrop Stanford made her mark as a woman of ability and determination.

Ignoring her financiers' and lawyers' advice to close the school until the estate was settled and the country had recovered from the panic of 1893, Stanford used her court-allocated income of ten thousand dollars a month to pay professors' salaries, claiming them as household help. By reducing salaries, scrimping on her personal expenses, selling some personal jewelry, and reorganizing a formerly unprofitable winery, she managed to keep the university open. In 1894, a second dilemma confronted her when the United States government made a claim of fifteen million dollars against the Stanford estate. Wielding her power well, Ms. Stanford conferred with President Cleveland, Attorney General Richard Olney, and Washington officials until, in 1896, the United States Supreme Court dismissed the Government's claim.

That same year saw the Stanford estate out of probate. Ms. Stanford's determination in guiding the university through its first troubled decade combined with her extensive building program, were not without repercussions. Low faculty salaries caused severe morale problems. "It is too bad that the men can't feed their families buff sandstone," remarked a professor. Yet, in refusing to abandon her dream, Ms. Stanford completed the family's endowment of the university by 1901. One hundred thousand acres of land were deeded and more than eleven million dollars in stocks, bonds, and properties were transferred to the trustees.

One of the duties of the trustees, as defined in the Founding Grant, was "to afford equal facilities and give equal advantages in the University to both sexes." As the enrollment of women steadily increased, talk spread of women taking over as leaders of campus organizations. Students and alumni, upset by the poor performance of Stanford vs. Cal in 1898, whined that the glory of alma mater was being tarnished because male athletes were distracted from hard athletic practice by female students! When the number of women enrolled reached 40%, Ms. Stanford, consulting neither President David Starr Jordan nor the trustees, amended the charter so as to limit the number of women students to five hundred at any one time. In addressing the Board of Trustees on May 31, 1899, she averred that if the large growth in female students continued, "...the number of women students will before long greatly exceed the number of men...." She feared the public might regard Stanford "as a university for females instead of for males. This was not my husband's wish, nor is it mine, nor would it have been my son's." This action aroused considerable protest including a letter from suffragist, Alice Park. Ms. Stanford's reasoning was statistically faulty, based on the experiences of contemporary coed universities such as Berkeley. It is difficult to fathom why this woman, who seemed to enjoy the presence of female students and who corresponded with and supported suffragist Susan B. Anthony, would enact a quota system. Perhaps she felt that Stanford should emulate the pres-

tigious Ivy League schools which barred women. More likely, she underestimated the potential of Stanford women, believing that her own accomplishments had been done in the name of the men in her life. Whatever her thinking, Jane Stanford failed to discern the connection between the enormous achievements of her own life, after the death of her husband, and the empowerment of future generations of women. Stanford's policy of bias continued until 1933.

Jane Lathrop Stanford went from being a wealthy socialite to being the woman who fulfilled the dream of founding a great university. A school is named in her honor in Palo Alto. In tribute to her, Stanford's first president said: "No one outside of the University can understand the difficulties in her way in the final establishment of the University. ...some day the world may understand a part of this. It will then know her for the wisest, as well as the most generous, friend of learning in our time...." **mrf**

Vaal Anne Stark
Girl Scout Director

b. 1895, South Africa
d. Sept. 19, 1975, Palo Alto
Address: 500 Melville Avenue, "El Patio"

Vaal Stark made the journey into womanhood a pleasurable and memorable adventure for thousands of young girls through scouting. She learned to love the outdoors in her birthplace, Johannesburg, South Africa, where her father was on a work assignment. Eventually returning to Palo Alto with her family, Stark, after graduating from Palo Alto High School, received a degree in education from Stanford in 1917.

Shortly after her graduation, a Palo Alto child welfare agency, recognizing her love for and skill with children, allowed her, for several years, to house and care for five youngsters from broken homes. Stark was then recruited by Ms. Herbert Hoover into the national staff of the Girl Scouts where she traveled the country with "The Flying Squadron," training college students in youth leadership. In 1922, appointed Director of the Big Tree region of the Girl Scouts, she undertook the enormous job of organizing the nascent girl scout movement in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and American Samoa. During her tenure, Ms. Stark established and directed Camp Chaparral in the

Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Chaparral was the first Girl Scout camp in the United States to operate successfully for over two hundred girls at a time, without shelter or buildings. Vaal directed the Big Tree region until her retirement in 1960.

Equaling her competence as an administrator, was Vaal Stark's awesome ability to instill self-confidence and respect for nature in the ever-multiplying troops of eager young girls. "Grizzly" or "Bear", as she was known to scouts and colleagues, encouraged, taught, and inspired generations of Chaparral campers. In her home town, she made her house, "El Patio," a fairy-tale environment for Palo Alto children who peeked in the windows to view her legendary collection of dolls. The enduring accomplishments of this unaffected mentor were memorialized, upon her death, by the dedication of a ring of redwoods at Camp Chaparral. **mrf**.

Chloe Frances Lesley Starks
Professor

b. 1866, Ohio
d. March 16, 1952, Palo Alto
Address: 1020 Waverley Street (1898-1901)
1016 Waverley Street (1901-02)
611 Gilman Street (1902-03)
1115 Ramona Street (1903-)

An Ohio native, Chloe Starks, married in 1897, after four years of studies at Stanford. Having concentrated on Zoology and Graphic Arts, she gained employment as an artist at the Hopkins Marine Station from 1898 to 1902. During that period, she also worked as an Instructor in Graphic Arts at Stanford from 1899 to 1908. After a brief interlude in Europe, she returned to Stanford, becoming an Assistant Professor of Education in 1918 and was promoted the next year to Associate Professor. She remained in that position until her retirement in 1932.

Starks was an artist of great versatility, teaching at Stanford during the heyday of ichthyology, a branch of zoology that deals with fish. She achieved international fame for her pen and ink illustrations on the osteology of fish which are featured in the books and papers of her husband and President David Starr Jordan.

Chloe Starks' drawings are displayed at the Smithsonian. Although her osteologic drawings are better known, she also produced charming and skilled illustrations for the 1915 travel book Tire Tracks on English Roads. **mrf**

Lucie Stern
Philanthropist

b. April 16, 1871, France
d. January 18, 1946. Palo Alto
Address: 1990 Cowper Street

Born in France and raised in San Francisco and Alameda, Lucie Stern, after graduating from the Van Ness Seminary, gave up her ambition to become a nurse in order to care for her mother and father. In 1899, she married Louis Stern, a nephew of Levi Strauss and one of the heirs to the Strauss fortune.

After her husband's death in 1924, Ms. Stern moved with her daughter to Palo Alto, thus beginning a fairy tale story of generosity. During the '30's and '40's, her funds built the Community Center, an expanded Lawn Bowling clubhouse, the Sea Scout headquarters at the Yacht Harbor, the Nurses' Cottage, a bird sanctuary on the Bay, the Boy Scout Camp Oljato at Huntington Lake, a center for the Palo Alto Society for the Blind, Rinconada Pool, the Junior Museum and much more. Her philanthropy earned for her the sobriquet "fairy godmother" of Palo Alto.

Even surpassing her home town benevolence was her support of Stanford, which exceeded six million dollars. More important than the university buildings funded by this unpretentious woman was the hospitality she extended to three decades of Stanford men. Hundreds of students and faculty were invited to Sunday dinner at her home. The meals and bull sessions attended by "Aunt Lucie's boys" were followed by forays into her "gift closet" stocked with clothing which was passed out to the guests. Many of these guests were impoverished students working their way through college. Affection for "Aunt Lucie" was evidenced by the correspondence and visits which continued long after the students' graduation.

It was commonly rumored that Ms. Stern didn't like women, since men were the primary invitees at her feasts. One theory about the lack of female students is that, because of the admissions quota, which limited women to five hundred per class, the Stanford

women tended to come from affluent backgrounds and did not need Ms. Stern's largesse. On one occasion, the local Girl Scout troop invited Ms. Stern to visit their humble headquarters hoping for funding to replace a decrepit refrigerator and stove. When no assistance was offered, Lou Henry Hoover, a Girl Scout activist asked Ms. Stern if the Girl Scouts had offended her. "Only by being a bunch of girls being directed by mothers," she retorted. Ms. Stern's missed opportunities to mentor young Stanford women and local girl scouts, regardless of their financial status, can perhaps be traced to her preference for the underdog and her life-long refusal to be drawn into "society." Like Jane Stanford she may not have realized the value of her own life as a role model for future generations.

It is impossible to live in Palo Alto without realizing how great a contribution Lucie Stern has made. Her generosity not only assured an enhanced quality of life for generations to come but also nurtured an often neglected connection between town and gown.
mrf

Mary Denison Wilt Thomas
Politician

b. November 19, 1874, Dayton, Ohio
d. July 1, 1983, Palo Alto
Address: 1432 Webster Street

Mary Denison Wilt was born in Dayton, Ohio on November 19, 1874. She attended Wellesley College in the 1890's and competed on the women's rowing team. After her marriage in 1896, she lived for fourteen years in the Philippines and in New York. Coming to California in 1910 because of her husband's illness, she settled in Palo Alto in 1913.

One of the first two women elected to the City Council in 1919 along with Emma Belle Blair, Thomas felt that to elect a woman should be no surprise, since women had long been activists in city governance. Ms. Thomas served on the council for four years and presided as acting mayor during the late summer of 1921, making her the first woman to perform the job of Palo Alto's chief executive. During the early 1920's, as the city shifted from a rural to an urban community, the council was concerned primarily with providing utility services, fire and police protection and other facilities. Ms. Thomas regarded her role in the 1921 purchase of forty acres of marsh land that

bordered Mayfield Creek Slough as one of the high points of her tenure. This land became the site of the refuse disposal area, the sewage treatment plant, and the now defunct Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Council person Thomas was also responsible for instituting a reduced hospital rate for Palo Altans at the cooperatively-run Palo Alto - Stanford Hospital and provided direction in building the police department.

After resigning from the council on March 20, 1923, citing "other duties that made it impossible for her to continue," Ms. Thomas took a three year respite before continuing her public service career.

From 1926 to 1931, she served on the Board of Public Safety and, from 1927 to 1929, she was a member of the City Planning Commission. She was also active on the Palo Alto Hospital Auxiliary Board and, although childless, she participated in the PTA.

On her 100th birthday, the Palo Alto City Council approved Resolution #5026 in appreciation of her public service. At that time, Mary Denison Wilt Thomas reminisced about her council years: "It was a very interesting council. We didn't have a political council then the way we do now.... There was no division (along political or philosophical lines)...I can remember budget meetings. ...we all stayed up until after twelve at night." Denison underestimated the admiration future generations of women would have for her role as one of the city's first female politicians when , recounting how much "time and thought (went) into running the city," she mused: "I don't think anyone appreciated how much time." **cc**

Elizabeth Van Auken
Teacher, Principal

b. January 28, 1884, Muskegon, Michigan
d. March 25, 1969, Palo Alto
Address: 818 Cowper Street
451 Lincoln Avenue
Lytton School (now, Lytton Gardens)
950 Amarillo Avenue (formerly , Elizabeth Van Auken Elementary School)

Elizabeth Van Auken had taught primary school for eight years in Michigan, Indiana, and Nevada before coming to Palo Alto in 1912. She began teaching at Lytton School in 1912 and retired after thirty-two years as principal, in 1949. The school built on the site

of the present Lytton Gardens in 1902 had ten classrooms and a large assembly hall. Ms. Van Auken was a beloved teacher and principal who could be found, on rainy days, standing outside her building under a voluminous umbrella ringing a bell to shoo her tardy, mud-puddle-hopping students into class.

Elizabeth Van Auken's interest in education extended to all phases of child welfare. Her devotion to her profession was representative of many women of that era to whom teaching was not just a job; it was an all-absorbing career. Employment limitations requiring women to be single in professions such as nursing and teaching, were not uncommon. Van Auken, who never married, adopted a daughter, Mary Tiffany who became a well-known classic Flamenco dancer and whose success was a source of great pride to her mother.

Possessed of a warm, wonderful personality, Van Auken might be said to have been "mother" to many Palo Altans. According to Louise Briggs, a former student, Van Auken was "strict, but fair;" there was general trepidation about being "sent to the Principal's office" as it was rumored that the Principal possessed a "spanking machine!" Most often referred to as "just a dear person" by those who knew her, Elizabeth Van Auken, in her thirty seven years of educational leadership, inculcated a respect for and love of education in her students. She was an active member of the Palo Alto PTA, the Santa Clara County Teachers Association, and the National Education Association.

At her retirement, Van Auken was Principal of both Lytton and Crescent Park Schools, having been asked to get the new Crescent Park School started in 1948-49. Retirement for Van Auken was not synonymous with leisure. She helped organize the YWCA in Palo Alto, serving on its Board of Directors for nine years. In addition, she served on the board of the Family Service Organization and was an active member of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Historical Association.

In 1950, the Board of Education expressed its appreciation to Elizabeth Van Auken as a "friend and wise counselor" by naming an elementary school on Amarillo Avenue in her honor (now, Ohlone School.) Van Auken's portrait hangs in the Ohlone School library and a nearby street, Van Auken Circle, serves as a reminder of her influence in the lives of many Palo Altans. **mrf**

Dr. Vida Redington Volkhardt
Physician, Community Activist

b. 1875
d. 1957, East Palo Alto
Address: 1101 Emerson Street
1955 Manhattan Avenue, East Palo Alto

Vida Redington was raised in the East Bay and earned her B.S. and a teaching certificate in math and physics at the University of California, Berkeley in 1895.

Her choice of Berkeley for college was mandated by the fact that her family could not afford the annual Stanford tuition of twenty-five dollars. During Redington's junior year, she became the first woman to be elected class president. Some of her fellow male students, fearing her victory, suggested that she not attend the election. She agreed but was elected anyway, thus, beginning a trend, as another woman, her sister Lena was elected the following year. In spite of persistent male heckling, Ms. Redington proved a very capable president.

In 1899, when she received her M.D., Redington was one of three women in her graduating class. Although she ranked fourth overall in her class, she found it very difficult, as a woman, to start a practice and spent one year as medical advisor to University of California women. She followed this with an internship at the Women's Hospital in Philadelphia and a summer spent studying at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Returning to the Bay Area a short time later, Dr. Redington joined the newly formed Sierra Club, accompanying the group as trip doctor on its first hikes. She jokingly referred to the "scandalous" bloomers that the women wore to hike Yosemite Falls and Mount Dana and described John Muir, who accompanied the group on its first two trips as a "very unusual man." 1904 found Redington and her sister, Lena traveling in Europe before resuming private practice in the East Bay.

Dr. Redington actively pursued her medical career until her marriage to Frederick Volkhardt in 1907. At that point, concluding that a career and marriage did not mix, Volkhardt abandoned her professional aspirations. Living in Berkeley until 1920, the Volkhardts then moved to Chicago so that Frederick could join his brother in manufacturing car batteries. Upon her husband's retirement in 1929, the Volkhardts relocated to Palo Alto.

Within a year of moving, Volkhardt helped found the local chapter of the American

Association of University women. One of its most active members, she chaired the Nature Study, Hobbies, Education, and Garden Committees and was Corresponding Secretary. from 1945 to 1949. An AAUW International Study Grant was named in Volkhardt's honor in 1952. The grant enabled women from liberated Europe to study in America so that they might better help their homelands rebuild.

Vita Redington Volkhardt spent her remaining years at her East Palo Alto home tending her rare fuschia and iris collections which were famous on the Peninsula. "I always find something to do," she stated. "That's my only recipe for staying young." **cc**

Sarah Armstrong Montgomery Green Wallis
Pioneer, Feminist

b. 1825, Ohio
d. 1905, Los Gatos
Address: Mayfield Farm (Barron Park)
Sarah Wallis Park (Grant Avenue & Ash Street)

In 1844, nineteen year old Sarah Armstrong Montgomery came to California with the Murphy-Stephens wagon train, settling in Sutter's Fort. Abandoned by her husband after they moved to San Francisco, Ms. Montgomery ran a boarding house until remarrying in 1849. Discovering that her new husband, Talbot Green was wanted for bank fraud and bigamy, she divorced him after giving birth to their child. Her third marriage in 1854 to Joseph Wallis, a clerk whom she encouraged to finish law school, was successful and produced four children. The Wallis family came to Mayfield in 1855 when Ms. Wallis took title to a two hundred and fifty acre property called Mayfield Farm (now Barron Park.)

To take title in her own name was unusual for a woman at that time, as was the elaborate mansion which she built on La Selva Street. Surrounded by orchards, Ms. Wallis's home became a center of civic and cultural events where she entertained prominent guests such as Ulysses S. Grant in 1877. Even more important to this determined and independent woman were the suffrage meetings she held with great leaders like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. In The History of Woman Suffrage, the latter wrote, "The most successful meetings ever held in Santa Clara County have been at Mayfield."

In 1870, Ms. Wallis became the president of the Mayfield Woman's

Suffrage Association and, that same year, was elected president of a San Francisco convention of nine suffrage groups meeting to create a statewide organization. By helping to finance the state suffrage movement and lobbying Sacramento legislators for laws to improve the status of women, she left a legacy to all California women Although Wallis did not live to see women get the vote, she succeeded in getting civil law changed to allow women to make contracts.

Always involved in community activities, Wallis shared dismay - with other residents in 1863 when the new railroad came through Mayfield - at the fact that the station depot had been located one half mile from town (near Churchill.) Two years of agitation for its removal to Mayfield, principally by Ms.Wallis, resulted in its location at its present site.

Wallis sold Mayfield Farm in 1878 and built a "modest but elegant cottage" on the property now known as Sarah Wallis Park, at the corner of Grant Avenue and Ash Street. After the death of her husband, she held gospel meetings at her home which featured locals performing in elocution and singing, with an occasional hymn thrown in for good measure.

In commemoration of her efforts for woman's suffrage and women's rights, a state historic marker was dedicated at the site of her house on La Selva Street. Sarah Armstrong Montgomery Green Wallis may never have enjoyed the opportunity to vote but she fought to provide that right and privilege for other women. **mrf**

Mary Wilhemine Williams
"Teacher, Historian, Pacifist, Feminist"

b. May 14, 1878, California
d. March 5, 1944, Palo Alto
Address: 752 Guinda Street

Mary Wilhelmine Williams was born May 14, 1878, and educated at San Jose Normal School, Stanford University, the University of California and the University of Chicago. Her Ph.D. was conferred by Stanford in 1914. She was an authority on Latin America and taught at Stanford, Wellesley and Goucher. While at Goucher, where she was full Professor for twenty years, she taught two unique courses: Canadian History and A History of the Woman Movement in the United States.

Williams was the author of The People and Politics of Latin America as well as three volumes

on diplomacy and social and political issues in Latin America. Two other books dealing with Scandinavian History, were inspired by her ancestral relationship to that area. She wrote and edited authoritative material for scholarly reviews, periodicals, and reference works. Because of her expertise, she was asked to serve as historic, geographic and cartographic expert on State Department advisory committees dealing with the Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Professor Williams's research and writing earned recognition from the government of the Dominican Republic and the American Historical Association.

Professor Williams spent her retirement in Palo Alto in the same vigorous and intellectual style in which she had pursued her career. She was active in the local A.A.U.W., the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the National Woman's Party. Her affiliation with the A.A.U.W. was long-standing, having compiled a survey for that organization of facilities of higher education for women in Latin America, 1926-27. Williams's Palo Alto years also enabled her to work on the third revision of her highly acknowledged book, The People and Politics of Latin America and a new diplomatic history of the United States.

Mary Wilhelmine Williams was tireless in her efforts to further the causes of peace, equal rights for women, elimination of race prejudice, and inter-American understanding. Her occupation, "Teacher, Historian, Pacifist, Feminist," is the description she chose for her tombstone. **dc**

Rhona Williams
Cattle Rancher, Conservationist

b. April 8, 1905, San Francisco
d. July 27, 1989, Palo Alto
Address: 351 Homer Avenue

Born in San Francisco, Rhona Williams came to Palo Alto because her parents, both Class of '87 Stanford graduates, had chosen the town as a likely place to raise their family and to establish her father's obstetrics practice. In 1907, Dr. Thomas Williams, one of the founders of the Palo Alto Medical Clinic, commissioned noted Bay Area architect, Ernest Coxhead to design the family home at 351 Homer Avenue. Set on a .69-acre landscaped site, it is a graceful combination of English

Tudor and Craftsman styles and was Ms. Williams' home until her death in 1989. The elegant house and gardens, protected by a dense hedge and mature redwoods from the unsightly encroachment of office buildings, parking lots, and traffic, is an oasis in the downtown area which Ms. Williams generously bequeathed to the City of Palo Alto in 1989 with the stipulation that it be used for park and/or cultural purposes.

Another early investment of the Williams family was the purchase of thirty-five acres on the west side of the Coast Range overlooking La Honda and the Pacific. The property, with its simple cabin next to a redwood grove, sparked a lifelong commitment to conservation in the young woman known as "Cougar" to her girl scout companions. It also necessitated daily trips to La Honda during the many years that Rhona and her sister, Elizabeth ran a cattle ranch there, before they willed the property to the Audubon Society.

A 1929 graduate of Stanford University with an A.B. in Biological Sciences, she bequeathed six million dollars to the Stanford University School of Medicine. Rhona Williams was a philanthropist whose gift of her house provided Palo Alto with a rare opportunity to preserve its historical, architectural, and environmental legacy. **mrf**

Dr. Effie York
Physician

b. circa 1864
d. February 27, 1955, Stockton
Address: 705 Cowper Street
711 Cowper Street (Filipino Club)

Palo Alto's first woman osteopath lived and practiced in Palo Alto from 1900 until her retirement in 1937. In addition to practicing medicine, Dr. York was well known as a friend of the Filipino community at Stanford University. York resided at 705 Cowper Street and also owned 711 Cowper, maintaining the latter as a club and residence for Filipino students.

Dr. York's hospitality towards Filipino students came under attack during the 1920's when a segregationist movement gained momentum in Palo Alto. A group of citizens presented a petition to the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce which stated: "...we feel positive that this settlement of Filipinos at

711 Cowper Street is but the forerunner of a large Oriental colony set down in the midst of one of the best residence districts of Palo Alto. We ask you as the most representative body of Palo Alto citizens to devise some plan to remove the menace and restore the block its old character of a street of homes and families." The Chamber of Commerce responded by presenting a resolution to the City Council advocating "a segregated district for the Oriental and colored people of the city." Supported by several fraternal organizations and by The Palo Alto Times, the resolution was met with justified outrage from Palo Alto's Japanese and African-American citizens.

Disturbed by this attitude of racial prejudice, Dr. York led a strong defense of the Filipino residence and was instrumental in the Planning Commission's decision that it could not legally rezone Cowper Street to exclude the club. Dr. York, in supporting the concept of brotherhood, set an early example of the true spirit of the "Sister City." She maintained the Filipino Club until the mid-1930's. **mrf**

Anne Probst Zschokke
"Mother of the Palo Alto School System"

b. September 30, 1849, Germany
d. May 30, 1929, Palo Alto
Address: 170 Homer Avenue
524 Forest Avenue
526 Forest Avenue
533 Bryant Street

Born in Germany,Anna Probst came to the United States when she was three years old and was educated at a normal school in Indiana. In 1877, she and her two year old son Theodore, after a nine day railroad trip from Terre Haute, Indiana, arrived in Bakersfield to join her husband. Leaving Kern County in 1884, the Zschokkes moved to Santa Clara to be near the community where they knew a university was to be built. Before her husband's death in 1889, they had chosen a lot in Palo Alto and arranged for a windmill and tank house to be built.

Coming by wagon with three children and all her household goods, Zschokke arrived in Palo Alto on June 14, 1890. The family "settled under the trees in a cosy (sic) camp for many weeks" while their house at 170 Homer Avenue was being built. During the next few years, Anna Zschokke kept a record of all newcomers, births and deaths, and new businesses in the small community. This account was first published on December 30, 1897 as the Pioneer History of Palo Alto. According to Zschokke, no one who came after

1896 could properly be called a "pioneer."

As important as this record was, Ms. Zschokke is more often remembered as the "Mother of the Palo Alto School System." Until 1893, the children of Palo Alto attended school in Mayfield, a distance of over two miles. These students walked, or their parents took them, and many residents, including Anna Zschokke, longed for a school in Palo Alto. Her personal census established that there were fifty-four children in Palo Alto and that Palo Alto was two miles, with a few inches to spare, from the Mayfield school - both of these facts were conditions necessary to establish a separate school district. On March 20, 1893, the Palo Alto School District was established and, by Fall, a temporary, two-room school was constructed. The site of this school is marked by a plaque on the old telephone building on Bryant Street. The plaque neglects to mention that Anna Zschokke, with her census, mileage counts, and relentless ambition, was largely responsible for the founding of Palo Alto's first grade school. It is also ironic that "The Mother of the Palo Alto School System" was defeated by a few votes in her 1896 election bid for a School Board seat although she was repeatedly appointed School Census Marshall.

In 1894, a larger elementary school was built on Channing Avenue at Webster Street. By this time, Ms. Zschokke, along with other parents of older students, realized the need for a high school. They, therefore, organized a secondary education program upstairs in the new Channing Avenue school. When the student body outgrew these temporary class rooms, Zschokke, in 1897, used her personal finances to build two structures for use by high school students on her Forest Avenue property. The larger building at 524 Forest Avenue was for classes and the smaller, at 526, for a science laboratory. Realizing that the city would ultimately fund another larger building, Zschokke designed the buildings so that they could easily be converted into residences - which they were in 1901 when the new high school building opened across from the grammar school.

Her three children attended Stanford University and, even Anna Zschokke, affectionately known as "General Whipper-in," rode her bicycle to the campus taking classes from 1896 to 1898. Zschokke was a charter member of the Woman's Club and of the Women's Christian Temperance Union as well as an early member of the first, non-denominational Sunday School and the new Presbyterian Church.

As much as Zschokke prized education, so, too, did she value the right of women to suffrage. In 1899, she was one of the founding members of the Palo Alto Political Equality Club, whose purpose was to educate the people about the woman suffrage cause. Serving first as treasurer and then as secretary, Zschokke was also in charge of the current events department which collated suffrage actions throughout the county.

Ms. Zschokke's history of Palo Alto was chronicled in The Palo Alto Times and has been a major source of information to all historians of the city. The greatest contribution of Anna Probst Zschokke lay in her dedication to educating the pioneer children of the city, a dedication which marked the beginning of a long tradition of Palo Alto pride in education. **rw**

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto
"Self-Improvement, Mutual Help, and Community Work"

b. June 20, 1894, Palo Alto
d. still in operation
Address: 475 Homer Avenue

Palo Alto is many things to different people, but, despite changing mores, there remains a core concept of a city which is, in some way, unique. The notion of a spirit of participation, intellectual striving, avant-garde ideas, and good will is part of this uniqueness. No single group is more responsible for the character of this city than the "Women of the Club."

On June 20, 1894, twenty-four women came together at the old Presbyterian Church for the purpose of formally organizing the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. Mary Grafton Campbell was elected President, Ms. M. B. Culver, Vice President, and Cora Warner, Secretary. Membership was open to any woman who was a resident of Palo Alto and vicinity, would sign its constitution, and promise to promote its objectives of self-improvement, mutual help, and community work.

For self-improvement, the women invited prominent speakers to address the Club on topics including world events, current legislation, child psychology, city planning, current research at Stanford and Berkeley, and, of course, on the "woman question," i.e., the status of women in the United States and abroad. Consciousness was raised concerning women's rights: to earn a living, to enter universities and professional schools, to receive equal pay for equal work, to hold property independently, to obtain equal legal control over children, to divorce on the same grounds as men and to have the right not to marry and not to be burdened with too many children.

The goal of mutual help was sought by teaching club members to better understand each other and the needs of women. On September 17, 1897, when club membership had risen to one hundred and ten, Mary Grafton Campbell spoke eloquently of this goal, "Men form clubs for relaxation and recreation - women for concerted work. But this very work, so different from their home work, is both solace and recreation; if we pronounce it recreation we describe what it does for women."

With regard to the third of the club's goals, community work, the record is long and outstanding. Individually, and as a group, these pioneer women

founded the city's first reading room in 1896 and library in 1898, its first elementary school in 1893 and high school in 1894. They twice proposed, in 1895 and in 1899, that the town trustees place a Sewer Bond Issue before the voters. They beautified the city streets and the railroad station through tree planting and watering, promoted school gardens, secured lunch and rest rooms for girls at the high school, and established "The Friendly Wood Yard" in 1894 to provide jobs for unemployed transients. Incessantly they prodded the city fathers to set aside land for city parks. During the 1903 cholera epidemic and the 1906 earthquake, they aided victims and worked with service men and their families during the World Wars. In addition, the members improved the lot of all California women by championing the cause of woman suffrage and the lot of all Palo Alto residents by endorsing the first two successful female candidates for City Council.

In 1904, The Woman's Club was incorporated and the dream of a club house led to the development of a lot fund. A short time later, a lot was purchased for one thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars at the corner of Homer Avenue and Cowper Street. There was some trepidation that this location was too far from the fledgling town. For the next twelve years, incessant fund-raising through receptions, food markets, costume parties, sell-out speakers such as Helen Keller, and the publication of two books, The Santa Clara Valley and a Woman's Club Cook Book, enabled the women to raise five thousand three hundred dollars. With this they built their Tudor-Craftsman style club house at 475 Homer Avenue, hosting a five hundred person house-warming on September 20, 1916.

It is obvious from reading the stories in this book, that many activist women were members of The Woman's Club. It is also obvious that without these women, Palo Alto would not be the town we love to love. From these proud beginnings, the women of the club have continued to respond to community needs at all levels up to and including assistance during the recent Los Angeles earthquake. The history of The Woman's Club epitomizes not only the history of Palo Alto but the history of women in this country. **mrf**

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Map Guide To Palo Alto Addresses

Ω denotes demolished.

Crescent Park Neighborhood:
San Francisquito Creek To Embarcadero Road, Middlefield Road To Bayshore Freeway

Amirian, Queene Takoohy	553 Patricia Lane
Arnott, Virginia Catlin	424 Seneca Street
Brenner, Frances Hallam	10 Phillips Road
Duveneck, Josephine	1445 Hamilton Avenue
	705 Alester Avenue (Duveneck School)
Harker, Catherine and Sara	118 Greenwood Avenue Ω
	Harker and Melville Avenues (Harker School) Ω
Jew, Rose	1001 Fulton Street
Morgan, Julia	423 Chaucer Street
Williams, Mary Wilhemine	752 Guinda Street

Downtown North Neighborhood:
San Francisquito Creek To University Avenue, Alma Street To Middlefield Road

Alsberg, Elsa	236 Waverly Street Ω
Cogswell, Eleanor Valoy	245 Lytton Avenue (Tines Tribune Building)
Johnson, Edith Eugenie	375 Hawthorne Avenue
	Medico-Dental Building (Hamilton and Ramona)
Johnson Park	(Hawthorne and Everett Avenues)
Kimura, Mary Gallagher	329 University Avenue Ω
Morgan, Julia	515 Lytton Avenue
	27 University Avenue
	117 University Avenue Ω
Mosher, Clelia Duel	113 University Avenue Ω
O'Hara, Josephine	119 Byron Street Ω

Professorville And Downtown Neighborhoods:
University Avenue To Embarcadero Road, Alma Street To Middlefield

Alden, Isabella Macdonald	425 Embarcadero Road
Bolton, Besse Warner	1125 Ramona Street
Burdick, Cornelia	1200 Bryant Street
Campbell, Mary Grafton	Forest between Waverly and Cowper
Charles, Isabel Peck	1106 Ramona Street
	251 Lincoln Avenue
Clark, Esther Dr.	300 Homer Avenue
Corbert, Anita L.	533 Bryant Street
Gilbert, Julia	433 Melville Avenue
Hadden, Anne	1159 Ramona Street (could be 274 Kingsley Avenue)
	462 Melville Avenue Ω
Harker, Catherine and Sara	1020 Bryant Street
	1121 Bryant Street
Jew, Rose	647 Emerson Street Ω
	1001 Fulton Street
Kellogg Emma	1061 Bryant Street
Kimura, Mary Gallagher	917 Alma Street Ω
	206 University Avenue Ω
	333 Waverley Street Ω
Lockey, Mary	1121 Bryant Street
McGillivray, Helen	465 Melville Avenue Ω
Mitchell, Lydia	252 Kingsley Avenue
Mosher, Clelia Duel	1100 Bryant Street
	1094 Emerson Street Ω
Nichols, Dorothy	1326 Emerson Street Ω
Norris, Kathleen Thompson	1247 Cowper Street
	1650 Waverly Street
Norton, Elizabeth	353 Lowell Street
Packard, Lucile Salter	367 Addison Avenue
Park, Alice	611 Gilman Street Ω
	510 Hamilton Street
Lucy Fletcher and Eleanor Pearson	319 Kingsley Avenue Ω
	1121 Bryant Street
Place, Cornelia	473 Embarcadero Road Ω
Robertson, Nazel Glaister	619 Homer Avenue
Smith, Frances Rand	1033 Bryant Street
	1335 Cowper Street
Smith, Mary R.	1146 Waverly Street
	430 Kingsley Street
Stark, Vaal	500 Melville Avenue

Van Auken, Elizabeth	818 Cowper Street
	451 Lincoln Avenue
Volkhardt, Vita	1101 Emerson Street
The Woman's Club of Palo Alto	475 Homer Avenue
Williams, Rhona	351 Homer Avenue
York, Effie Dr.	705 and 711 Cowper Street
Zschokke, Anna Probst	170 Homer Avenue Ω
	524 and 526 Forest Avenue Ω
	533 Bryant Street

Old Palo Alto Neighborhood:
Embarcadero Road To Oregon Expressway, Alma Street To Middlefield Road

Blair, Emma Belle	230 Kellogg Avenue
Gamble, Elizabeth F.	1431 Waverly Street
Hadden, Anne	151 Kellogg Avenue
Lockey, Mary	1310 Bryant Street (Castilleja School)
Merriman, Isabelle Pardee	235 Melville Avenue Ω
Mundy, Harriet Blanchard	757 Tennyson Avenue
Stern, Lucie	1990 Cowper Street

College Park Neighborhood:
Stanford Avenue To California Avenue, El Camino Real To Amherst Street

Cameron, Donaldina	1020, 1040 California Avenue Cameron Park, 2100 Wellesley Street
Clark, Esther Dr.	2257 Hanover Street
Easterday, Sybil Unis	College and Bowdoin Ω
Evans, Lucy	1440 California Avenue Ω
Shreve, Pearl S.	1510 California Avenue

Barron Park Neighborhood:
Chimalus Avenue To Arastradero Road, El Camino Real To Bol Park

Briones, Juana	Arastradero Road at Clemo Avenue
Wallis, Sarah	Barron Park, La Selva Street State Historic Marker

Other Neighborhoods:

Briones, Juana	4155 Old Adobe Road
	Page Mill Road and Birch Street
Clark, Esther Dr.	960 Old Trace Road
Harrison, Hester	2385 Louis Road
Stanford, Jane	Stanford Farm Ω

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San Francisquito Creek To Embarcadero Road, Middlefield Road To Bayshore Freeway

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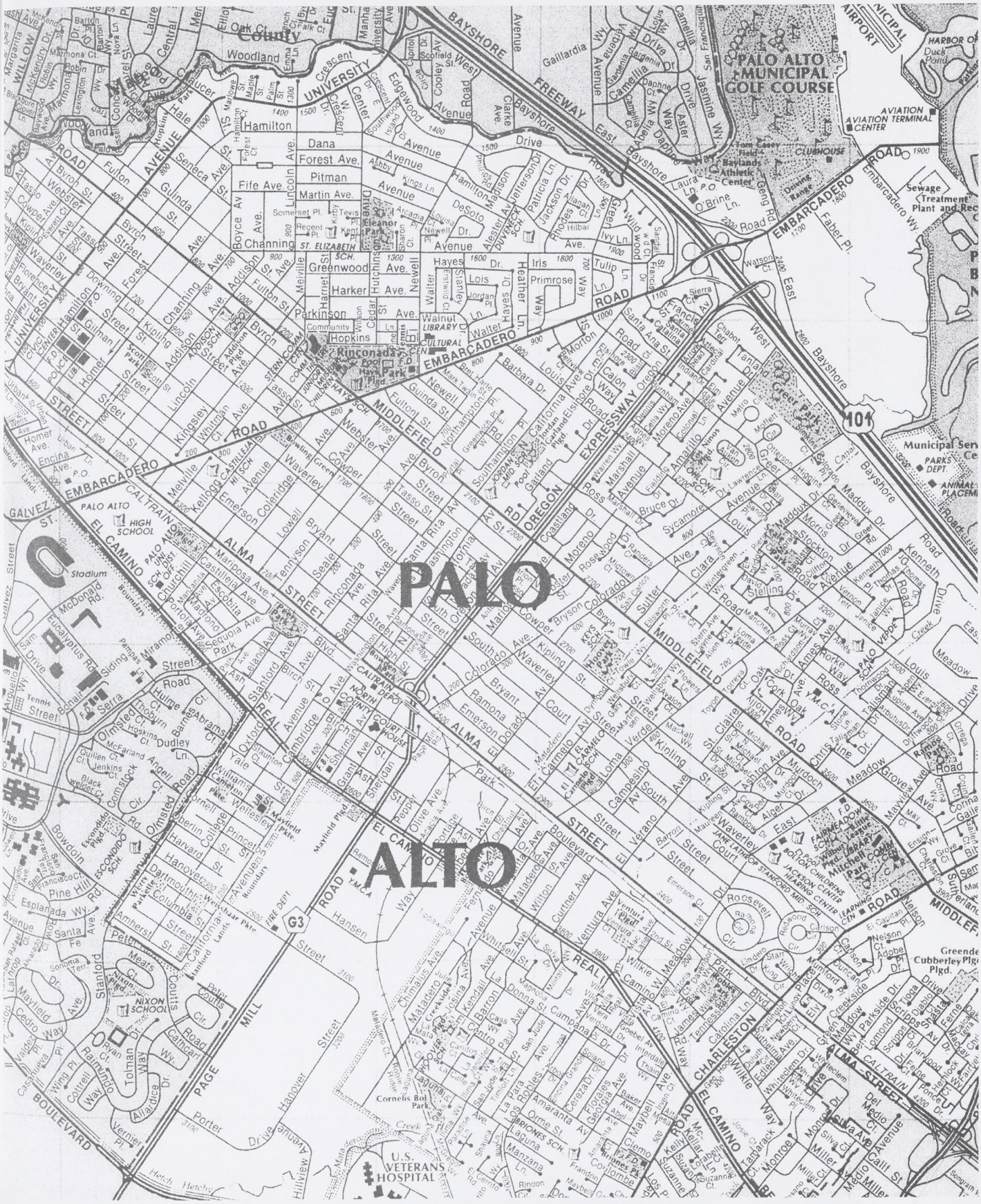
Barron Park Neighborhood:
Chimalus Avenue To Arastradero Road, El Camino Real To Bol Park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HOOVER POOL
MAYFIELD PARK
RINCONADA PARK
EL CARMELO PARK
GREER PARK
MITCHELL PARK
ROBLES PARK
CORNELIS BOL PARK
U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL
101
G3

A Walk Through History: Women of Palo Alto was conceived as an effort to celebrate the lives of those remarkable women who have shaped our community in the past century. Since history often has a masculine bias, we wanted to ensure that the Centennial acknowledged these women whose influence permeates Palo Alto even today.

Neither living women nor women described solely in relation to great men are noted. Included are women who secured suffrage for all California women, educated their sisters about political participation, founded schools, healed the sick, constructed buildings, created art, represented citizens at every level of government, aided the poor and disenfranchised, improved and protected the environment, and founded civic organizations. Their contribution to Palo Alto is immeasurable.

mrf

$7.95

Proceeds of the book sales will go to Support Network for Battered Women.